

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Latin America*

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ARGENTINA

Labor Minister Resigns; Successor Named	B 1
Uruguay's Ferreira Aldunate Talks to Press	B 2
Meets Alfonsin	B 3
Armed Forces Council: Suarez Mason 'Rebel'	B 3
Auto Sales Up, Production Down in 1st Quarter	B 3
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 12 Apr]	
Briefs: TELAM Press Agency President	B 3

BOLIVIA

Defense Minister Says Coup Could Spark Civil War	C 1
Commander on Radiogram, Arms	C 2
Second Consignment of French Arms To Arrive	C 3
Cochabamba Workers Protest Economic Package	C 3
Civilians Attack Labor Leader in Cochabamba	C 3

BRAZIL

Reportage on Prelude of Elections Amendment Vote	D 1
Radio, TV Censorship Enforced	D 1
Police Surround Congress	D 1
Millions Demonstrate	D 1
Police Leave Congress	D 2
Station Objects to Censorship	D 2
Sao Paulo Police Prepare	D 3
PMDB Head Condemns Government	D 3
Brasilia Troops on Alert	D 4
Dates for Figueiredo Visit to Japan, PRC Set	D 4

CHILE

U.S. Rejection of New Chilean Envoy Denied	E 1
Commission Head on U.S. Copper Firms, Subsidies	E 1
Pinochet Reaffirms Confidence in Papal Mediation	E 2
Mapuche Indian Leaders Detained by Carabineros	E 2

COLOMBIA

M-19 Announces Peace Accord Possibility	F 1
Police Thwart FARC Attempt To Occupy Town	F 1

MEXICO

USSR Envoy Scores Mining of Nicaraguan Ports	M 1
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Nicaragua	M 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

C.A. Foreign Ministers To Meet in San Salvador P 1

COSTA RICA

Reportage on NEW YORK TIMES Bribe Allegations P 1
 Government Seeks Reporter P 1
 Foreign Minister Comments P 1
 Official: U.S., ARDE Camps on Nicaraguan Border P 2

EL SALVADOR

President Meets With Central Electoral Council P 3
 D'Aubuisson Explains Opposition to Voter Lists P 3
 Troops Deployed Near Hydroelectric Dam P 5
 [LA PRENSA GRAFICA 24 Apr]
 'Suicide Command' Threatens Army, U.S. Officials P 5

GUATEMALA

Foreign Minister on U.S. Military Maneuvers P 6
 [PRENSA LIBRE 24 Apr]
 Mejia Comments on Guerrillas, Refugees in Mexico P 6

HONDURAS

Nicaraguan Army Incursion Reported in Choluteca P 7

NICARAGUA

U.S. Source Cited on Code Interception Claim P 7
 Junta To Decree End of Emergency Law 4 May P 7
 State Council Delegation To Visit Mexico P 8
 Costa Rican Ambassador Terms Relations 'Normal' P 8
 Episcopal Conference Issues Pastoral Letter P 9
 Political Leaders Rap Letter P 10
 Defense Ministry Reports Clashes, Casualties P 11
 ARDE's Robelo Denies CIA Links, Financial Aid P 12
 Briefs: British Group Visits; New FIR Director P 12

CUBA

Bomb in Angola Kills 14 Internationalist Workers Q 1
 UN Envoy Blames U.S. for Serious World Situation Q 1
 Czechoslovak Delegation Arrives for Meeting Q 1
 Nicaragua's Culture Minister, Uruguayan Arrive Q 2
 Ideological Orientation Group Visits Bulgaria Q 2
 Reagan's Asia Trip Seen as 'Diplomatic Offensive' Q 2
 U.S. Military Maneuvers Begin in Puerto Rico Q 5
 Demonstrations, Violence in Dominican Republic Q 5
 Contra Offensives Defeated in Nicaragua Q 5
 Nicaraguan Defense Ministry Cited on Clashes Q 6

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Jorge's Discussions With U.S. Officials Viewed	R	1
[LISTIN DIARIO 15 Apr]		
Reportage on Protests, Strike, Violence	R	1
LISTIN DIARIO Comments	R	1
24-Hour Strike Called	R	2
Over 10 Reported Dead	R	2
Jorge To Issue Statement	R	3
CP Leaders Released	R	3
Radio Reports 33 Killed	R	4
Radio Popular Closed	R	4
Radio Guarocuya Closed	R	4
Death Toll at 34	R	4
PRSC-PR Merger Approved, Backed by FRG Party	R	5

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas To Host Next Caricom Summit 29 June	S	1
---	---	---

BERMUDA

New Finance Minister, Economic Council Named	S	1
--	---	---

HAITI

Duvalier Stresses Support for Contadora Group	S	2
Briefs: New Bahamian Ambassador	S	2

JAMAICA

Former Prime Minister Manley on PNP Position	S	2
--	---	---

OTHER COUNTRIES

URUGUAY

Government Gives Permission for 1 May Rally	V	1
---	---	---

VENEZUELA

U.S. Contadora Support Satisfies Morales Paul	V	1
Briefs: Oil Production; National Guard Changes;	V	1
New Comptroller General		

LABOR MINISTER RESIGNS; SUCCESSOR NAMED

PY250038 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1539 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (TELAM) -- Outgoing Labor and Social Security Minister Antonio Mucci reported this morning at a press conference that he has resigned from his post and added that the new labor minister, Deputy Juan Manuel Casella (Radical Civic Union -- Buenos Aires) will be sworn in tomorrow. Nevertheless, Mucci stated that he will continue heading the Labor Ministry, as is the duty of good, honest men, until the newly designated minister assumes his post.

The outgoing minister stated that his resignation does not involve a shakeup in the government because, he said, it remains sound and strong.

Mucci stated that he experienced two major frustrations during his almost 5 months of management. One of them is stepping down from a post for reasons of principle, of loyalty, when I feel capable, when I feel strong, when I am willing to continue with my task. But this is not the worst setback I endured as head of the Labor Ministry, he stated. I want to publicly confess, and I am not afraid to say so, that I experienced a much greater pain when I learned that the Senate had rejected the union reorganizations law. Today a man is leaving, and another will replace him, but at that moment it was essential, I repeat, essential for our country to have a democratic union law. I am absolutely convinced that we will have it in a very short time because we have succeeded as far as ideas are concerned, he said.

Mucci stated that at the meeting scheduled for 1730 today between Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun and the top board of the unified CGT [General Confederation of Labor], "I will accompany Grinspun in that task and then I will brief Casella on the details of the meeting. [quotation marks as received]

Asked about the reasons of principle that led to his resignation, Mucci stated that when a man follows a line of action, when a man faces things head on, he has to demand that everyone else act in the same manner. Moreover, he said, I feel that changing a minister is rather natural. From the moment the law (on union reorganization) was pigeonholed in the Chamber of Deputies, I asked President Alfonsin to change his minister three times, because it was rather obvious that I was too closely connected with the draft bill, and that another face, another image, was needed.

Mucci said: I submitted my resignation again 10 days ago because I believe that a man's accomplishments in an administration cannot be measured by how long he stays in office, but by how dedicated he was by the things he accomplished. He added: President Alfonsin is aware that I am a loyal militant and that I can be useful in any position either inside or outside the government.

He said: "I am leaving with the conviction that I have acted with honesty, but I have to leave out of a sense of loyalty. I have already met with the union leaders 30 or 40 times and now that a new man is available who can face up to the situation with new ideas and without mistrust or preconceptions, he should be given enough elbowroom to carry out his duties."

The press conference held by the outgoing minister was attended by Emilio Capuccio, social security secretary; Miguel Pi de la Serra, under secretary of social security; Enrique Rabinovitz, under secretary of labor and social security; and Victor de Martino, under secretary of technical matters and administrative coordination.

URUGUAY'S FERREIRA ALDUNATE TALKS TO PRESS

PY241343 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1721 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM) -- Uruguayan National (Blanco) Party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate has expressed his certainty that victory is near and, after making a call for unity among the Uruguayan people, he said that he is a man with less hatred inside him all the time and he could not understand why others should hate him.

Ferreira Aldunate arrived at Ezeiza airport at 1130 (1530 GMT) in the company of his son Juan Raul. He was met at the airport by Foreign Relations Under Secretary Raul Alconada Aramburu on behalf of President Raul Alfonsin. He was also welcomed by Intransigent Party President Oscar Alende, former Economy Minister and Justicialist leader Antonio Cafiero, and national Deputies Miguel Unamuno (Justicialist Party-capital), Miguel Monserrat (Intransigent Party-Buenos Aires), and Guillermo Sarquis (Radical Civic Union-capital).

Asked about the possibility that the Uruguayan Government may lift the ban which forbids him to run for election, Ferreira Aldunate replied that the military regime does not have sufficient strength to keep the people from asserting their decision to attain democracy through a process in total freedom. Ferreira Aldunate said that he is sure that free elections will be held in November, with the participation of all political parties and Uruguayan citizens.

Asked if that conviction has been gained through contacts with the Uruguayan military, Ferreira Aldunate flatly denied having such contacts. We are struggling for the Armed Forces to return to their barracks and thus to recover their lost prestige.

The Uruguayan political leader reaffirmed his conviction in the victory of his party, because it does not need alliances or class understandings to win the elections since his party holds more than an absolute majority of the electorate. But a climate of national unity is needed, not to win but so that the elections can be held.

He added that a popular government will be viable after the elections not just because it is supported by a majority, no matter how large, but because it is based on understandings with the largest number of national sectors possible.

As for his acquiescence to appear before military courts, Ferreira Aldunate said that he will return to Uruguay whenever his party or he himself wants to, without caring about what others would do.

He estimated that the obstacles are not too many, and expressed his certainty that victory is at hand and that to achieve it the only arms available are sufficient, that is, the multitudes and the majority of the people in an attitude of rising militancy.

Asked if he thought he was the person most hated by the military regime, Ferreira Aldunate said that those things come and go, adding that he was a person with less hatred inside him all the time and he could not understand why others should hate him. He stressed that he does not live looking over his shoulder and that he trusts the common sense of his fellow countrymen.

Lastly, Ferreira Aldunate said that he never considered the possibility that the Argentine Government could intercede to have the ban on him lifted, because this is a question for Uruguayans. What we expect from the Argentine Government is that it be good for the Argentines.

Meets Alfonsin

PY240343 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0238 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin tonight had dinner at the Clivos cottage with Uruguayan Blanco party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, who arrived in Argentina today from London. When he arrived at the presidential cottage and before he entered it through the door facing Villate and Wineberg [Streets], the exiled leader told the press that he is an old friend of Alfonsin and that he will return to Uruguay soon, regardless of whether or not there is a proscription.

Ferreira Aldunate has been living in exile since 1973. He is wanted by the Uruguayan military authorities for charges not clearly defined, and he has been stripped of his political rights in Uruguay by a decree of the now-reigning military regime. Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli also attended the dinner, which lasted until almost midnight.

ARMED FORCES COUNCIL: SUAREZ MASON 'REBEL'

PY241354 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Armed Forces Supreme Council has declared General Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason a rebel. This report was released by Colonel Jorge Gonzalez Ramirez, secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, who added that the appropriate records will be forwarded today to the Defense Ministry, which will ask the executive branch to decree Gen Suarez Mason's discharge from the Armed Forces.

AUTO SALES UP, PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1ST QUARTER

PY122306 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Apr 84 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- Automobile production in the first quarter of 1984 slacked off by 12.7 percent over the same period in 1983, despite a 9.6 percent increase in factory sales. According to the Automobile Factories Association (ADEFA) the 28,504 cars produced in the first three months of 1984 represent one of the lowest production rates of the last 10 years. Production during the last quarter was 30.5 percent below the average of the past decade.

Despite the increase in factory sales, the delivery of new cars still remained 17.8 percent below the last ten years' average. March production of 12,964 units represents a 1.4 percent increase over March 1983 levels, while sales over the same period fell 9.6 percent despite the quarterly increase.

Volkswagen led production increases, recording a 46 percent hike over the first quarter of 1983. Sevel (Fiat-Peugeot) followed with a 36 percent increase in production. Ford, on the other hand, suffered a 50 percent drop in production over the same period. Sevel produced more cars than any other manufacturer during the first quarter, accounting for 36 percent of total production, with Renault, Ford, and Volkswagen following respectively at 31, 18, and 14 percent.

BRIEFS

TELAM PRESS AGENCY PRESIDENT -- Journalist Mario Monteverde has taken over the presidency of the TELAM Press Agency. He was appointed to this position by the shareholders assembly. The other members of the directorate who were confirmed in their positions are: Eduardo Carbo, Hector Maceira, Cesar Porto, and Antonio Merli. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1651 GMT 10 Apr 84 PY]

DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS COUP COULD SPARK CIVIL WAR

PY241825 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] National Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo, referring to the alleged military coup of the last few hours -- which has been fully denied -- has stated that an attitude of this type would have disastrous consequences for the country.

Cardenas Mallo stated that the solidarity voiced by the Latin American and European democratic countries as a result of the Robore incident is very significant since it shows that any attempt to stage a coup will be strongly condemned by the democratic world. These are Minister Cardenas Mallo's comments:

[Begin recording] [Cardenas in progress] ...this is the government's purpose, as it should be. The interior minister has already said so, and I agree with him. I share the responsibility since, as I stated yesterday, the Defense Ministry is the only organization authorized to allow the entry of arms or other material for the exclusive use of the Armed Forces.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, could a coup lead our country to a civil war?

[Cardenas] Yes, I think so. I think that the conditions are set for a civil war because at present the entire population is aware of the need to support the democratic process. Therefore, any repressive action would be the most disastrous thing that could happen to the country, to the continent. As we saw yesterday, all the reports sent abroad stirred up a great movement and international solidarity in support of the Bolivian democratic process. [end recording]

Cardenas Mallo stated that it is the Armed Forces' duty to issue the appropriate sentence for General Pinto since he made statements without the authorization of the commander in chief. The defense minister also stated that within a democratic process all the laws currently in force must be observed.

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] The commander in chief of the Armed Forces is responsible for any breach of discipline, should there be one, and for the morale of the Armed Forces. Since we are experiencing a democratic process one cannot just carry out actions based on mere suppositions, one must carry out all necessary investigations. Anyway, I reiterated that this issue is the responsibility of the Armed Forces commander in chief.

[Reporter] Does the telegram (?suggest an uprising)?

[Cardenas] As the commander in chief has already stated, the telegram is being analyzed. We are acting with great caution and in this case we fully respect the legal aspects that prevail in keeping with the military penal code currently in force. [end recording].

Cardenas Mallo made these statements at the end of a ceremony to celebrate the 21th anniversary of the Bolivian Naval college. It was attended by President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

Commander on Radiogram, Arms

PY241912 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] General Alfredo Villarroel Barja, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has stated that the contents of the radiogram that General Haroldo Pinto, commander of the 5th Army Division, has sent to the military high command contains certain expressions that could result in military sanctions. The high-ranking military chief was asked about the radiogram after an alleged military uprising had been denied.

[Begin recording] [Villarroel] Well, certain aspects regarding military regulations can be noted in the radiogram. Any decision will be made internally within the Armed Forces.

[Unidentified reporter] General, do the representatives of the Armed Forces guarantee the current democratic process?

[Villarroel] We answered that question in the communique we released last night.

[Reporter] According to national sectors, the Armed Forces are undoubtedly concerned over the fact that the national government has introduced arms into the country. What is the Armed Forces' position in this regard?

[Villarroel] Well, that, of course, has been resolved. Minister [words indistinct] has made everything clear. Those weapons are in the warehouses of the Air Force under the responsibility of the Defense Ministry.

[Reporter] Then what is the reason for the proclamation by other members of the military?

[Villarroel] Well, maybe it is because the appropriate notification had not reached them due to the long religious weekend. [end recording]

Later the journalists asked the commander in chief of the Armed Forces about a report that has circulated during the past few hours indicating that a certain group within the Armed Forces has requested the resignation of the military high command. Villarroel told Panamericana that it was the first time that he had heard about such a report.

[Begin recording] [Villarroel] No, I have no knowledge of it. It is the first I have heard about it.

[Reporter] General, is everything calm and normal in the garrisons?

[Villarroel] Yes, everything is normal, everything is calm. [end recording]

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces emphasized that General Pinto has violated internal regulations of the Armed Forces and his case will be carefully studied. Pinto has presumably violated Article 134 of the General Personnel Law.

[Begin Villarroel recording] There are several articles that can be taken into account, because we know that General Pinto made that radiogram public, that he sent it to various organizations and that, therefore, he is possibly violating Article 134 of the [word indistinct] Personnel Law that states that authorization has to be requested from the commander in chief for it to be made public. [end recording]

SECOND CONSIGNMENT OF FRENCH ARMS TO ARRIVE

PY241905 Paris AFP in Spanish 1835 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 24 Apr (AFP) -- It was reported here today that a second consignment of arms for the Bolivian Armed Forces will arrive in Bolivia shortly in keeping with the Bolivian-French accord within whose framework 1,200 submachineguns for the Bolivian police arrived last week, sparking concern among the military.

The sources, which are close to the government, indicated that the transfer of military equipment is not made public in a timely manner for strategic reasons.

Bolivian Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo has stated that the French arms which arrived last week remain the property of the French Government until the administrative steps necessary to turn them over to their rightful owner, the Bolivian police, are taken.

COCHABAMBA WORKERS PROTEST ECONOMIC PACKAGE

PY241247 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] In compliance with measures taken by their leadership, the Cochabamba factory workers have started an indefinite general stoppage to reject the economic package issued by the government on 12 April.

The Panamericana correspondent reports that school activities in that district also are still paralyzed because teachers are demanding that the government comply with economic commitments.

CIVILIANS ATTACK LABOR LEADER IN COCHABAMBA

PY241907 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] We are going to begin our newscast with a dispatch from our correspondent in Cochabamba. Go ahead Cochabamba.

[Begin relay] [Words indistinct] his house and an attack against him [words indistinct] the leader (Lucio Lopez). The attack presumably took place last night at approximately 2130.

The sector's leaders were called into an emergency extraordinary meeting, where the attack was denounced.

According to reports, civilians have presumably attacked the home of the leader (Lopez), but the motive for the attack is still not known. The incident is being discussed right now at the extraordinary meeting.

The police have indicated that they are currently searching for some criminals that have been operating for some time in that region.

Moreover, the leaders of the factory workers have indicated that they will inform the meeting of the Departmental Labor Central that is to be held this afternoon. The incident will be cleared up within the next few hours with the release of some communiques, they added. [as heard]

This is Panamericana reporting from Cochabamba. [end relay]

REPORTAGE ON PRELUDE OF ELECTIONS AMENDMENT VOTE

Radio, TV Censorship Enforced

PY240332 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Beginning tonight, radio and television stations in the Federal District and the 10 municipalities in the State of Goias that are subject to the emergency measures are prohibited from broadcasting news and journalistic programs, in addition to political debates, statements, and interviews.

The censorship measures are included in a resolution issued by General Newton Cruz, who is in charge of implementing the emergency measures that were decreed last Thursday.

The censorship is mainly applied against news programs that, either directly or indirectly, carry the debate from Congress on the constitutional amendments or incidents resulting from the enforcement of emergency measures.

In the resolution, Gen Cruz notes that he is firmly determined to enact these measures within the framework of its lofty ideals, that is, to avoid the disruption of free exercise of legislative activity.

Police Surround Congress

PY242204 Paris AFP in Spanish 2146 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The seat of the Brazilian Congress, where a constitutional amendment to restore direct presidential elections will be voted on tomorrow, was surrounded by militarized police forces tonight.

No reasons have yet been given for the measure, which forms part of the emergency measures adopted in Brasilia last Thursday to guarantee free exercise of congressional activities.

Members of Brasilia's militarized police were posted at the gardens of the congress armed only with pistols. Access to the place has been prohibited, but those who are inside are allowed to leave.

Millions Demonstrate

PY250227 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Apr (AFP) -- Tonight, twelve hours before the Brazilian Congress starts the vote on a constitutional amendment to restore direct presidential elections, millions of persons came out onto the streets of the most important Brazilian cities to express their support for this amendment proposed by opposition leaders.

The blaring of car horns from the long car caravans, the thousands of firecrackers, and the enthusiastic beating of pans by those who support the holding of direct presidential elections shook the streets and avenues of Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, and other capitals of the 23 Brazilian states.

Vigils and fasts in support for this amendment proposed by opposition parties were held tonight in front of churches and in front of the legislatures of the 23 Brazilian states.

In Brasilia, despite the emergency measures that have been in force since last Thursday -- these measures prohibit the holding of political demonstrations -- car caravans expressed support for the holding of direct elections by endlessly honking car horns, and thousands of persons produced a roaring noise by beating pans.

The Congress building, which tomorrow, Wednesday, will be the site of the decisive battle for the restoration of direct presidential elections, which have not been held since 1964 when the military took over power, continued to be surrounded tonight by military police.

The measure was implemented in keeping with emergency measures that have been in force in Brasilia since Thursday with the objective of guaranteeing the freedom of the legislators who will vote tomorrow on the constitutional amendment proposed by the opposition parties.

Several hundred students who earlier this afternoon had attended the congressional debate continued to be surrounded tonight in a very narrow no-mans-land between Congress and the police cordon.

The censorship of radios and television stations that was condemned today by the Brazilian association of radios and television stations impeded the broadcast in other Brazilian capitals of political news and of reports on the emergency measures that were implemented today in Brasilia.

In Goiania, where the emergency measures are also in force today, the military police surrounded and evacuated the Goias legislature, where a vigil was being held to protest these emergency measures.

Through communiques that were issued today, several union, political, and student organizations repudiated the enforcement of these emergency measures and expressed their support for the constitutional amendment restoring direct presidential elections that will be voted on tomorrow, Wednesday, by the Brazilian Congress in a joint legislative session.

Police Leave Congress

PY240343 Paris AFP in Spanish 0257 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The strick forces of the Brasilia militarized police left the surroundings of the National Congress at 2230 local time tonight after having surrounded the building for nearly 5 hours because of a student demonstration.

Yet the police still charged hundreds of students who were leaving the yards of Congress. The demonstrators ran in every direction through the large esplanade located outside the ministerial buildings. The police made no arrests.

For several hours political representatives attempted to negotiate the departure of the students from the building, fearful that the police might arrest some of them since all meetings or demonstrations have been banned since last Thursday for 60 days by the adoption of emergency measures.

The militarized police solved the problem by withdrawing their forces from the area.

Station Objects to Censorship

PY250223 Paris AFP in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The radio station Jornal do Brasil of Rio de Janeiro refused to be subjected to prior censorship, a measure in force in Brasilia since last Monday, and today decided to suspend broadcasting any news from Brasilia.

The censorship on radio and television stations in Brasilia and in 10 cities of the State of Goias also applies to information transmitted by correspondents assigned to this capital from other cities of the country.

Sao Paulo Police Prepare

PY241302 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Here in Sao Paulo the civilian and Military Police have been placed in a state of readiness. Journalist Bahia Filho last night interviewed the secretary for public security on this topic.

[Begin recording] [Bahia Filho] This information was released by Public Security Secretary (Michel Fenner) after a meeting with Government Secretary (Roberto Gusman) at Bandeirantes Palace.

The security secretary explained the motives for the state of readiness of the state's security organizations.

[(Fenner)] We wish to highlight the fact that both the civilian and Military Police will be in a state of readiness on 25 and 26 April. Thus, they will be ready for any type of problem during the approval, sorry, the voting on the Dante de Oliveira amendment.

[Bahia Filho] Is there any special police plan for the streets?

[(Fenner)] No. There will be more detectives on duty at the Military Police units and police stations. But no special plan has been provided for.

[Bahia Filho] This has been a Bandeirantes team interview with Public Security Secretary (Michel Fenner). [end recording]

PMDB Head Condemns Government

PY250324 Paris AFP in Spanish 2354 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 24 Apr (AFP) -- Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB), today began the debate over a constitutional amendment restoring the direct balloting system for the election of the president.

Guimaraes, the head of the main opposition party, spoke to a crowded session room.

The amendment bill was previously submitted by a PMDB deputy.

[Words indistinct] violated and mutilated by the emergency measures which will prevent the people from hearing and seeing what their representatives do or do not do on an issue that is decisive for their success or failure.

Let those who unlawfully hold power beware, he said. Driven by despair, the masses, upon which sacrifices have been imposed, can struggle and even die for governments that they can control.

Even though they may be compelled to remain outside politics, and even though they may be deprived of social justice and freedom, the people will be able to tell the difference between [words indistinct].

After recalling that the 20,000 demonstrations in favor of the direct balloting system had mobilized 50 million people throughout the country, Guimaraes outlined the Brazilian crisis.

I have seen, he said, the distressing geography of starvation, fear, rebelliousness, and of a scandalous social injustice.

I have seen an economy devastated by the cancer of 5 million unemployed people, 12 million underemployed people, and 40 million people living in absolute misery.

I have seen that minorities are determined to break the chains of discrimination.

I have also seen a hopeful country dressed in yellow (the color that represents the campaign for the direct elections system).

The direct elections system is not a remedy for all evils, but there is no possible solution without it, he said.

After strongly condemning the emergency measures imposed on Brasilia (suspension of individual freedoms and censorship of radio and television), Guimaraes said that it is hard, dangerous, and humiliating for a person to be a citizen of a nation subjected to coercive measures and where the rights of the people have been disregarded.

Guimaraes once again listed the demands posed by his party: the convening of a constituent assembly in 1986, a break with the IMF, a moratorium on the foreign debt, more just salary policies, land reform, and compensation of regional imbalances.

In his speech, Guimaraes recalled the words with which General Euclides Figueiredo, the father of the current president, demanded respect for the will of the people.

Brasilia Troops on Alert

PY251140 Paris AFP in Spanish 0955 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Apr (AFP) -- Last night General Newton Cruz, who is in charge of the emergency measures in Brasilia and 10 other Brazilian cities, placed the troops of the Planalto military command stationed in the District of Brasilia on alert.

All officers were ordered to report to their regimental headquarters and are ready to act if public order is disrupted in Congress today during the voting on an amendment on whether the upcoming presidential elections will be by direct vote.

In Brasilia the military command has 6,000 men and armored vehicles. The Planalto military command has 16,000 men.

DATES FOR FIGUEIREDO VISIT TO JAPAN, PRC SET

PY250257 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] In response to an invitation from the Japanese emperor, President Joao Figueiredo will pay an official visit to Japan from 23 to 27 May. According to a report released by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry today, President Figueiredo will visit Beijing from 28 May to 1 June.

U.S. REJECTION OF NEW CHILEAN ENVOY DENIED

PY240302 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Report by Carmen Castro]

[Excerpts] It has been categorically denied at the Foreign Ministry that the U.S. Government has not agreed to the appointment of career diplomat Mario Barros Van Buren as the new Chilean ambassador to the White House. The statement was made by the under secretary for foreign relations, Colonel Humberto Julio, in response to a recent report published by THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The prestigious U.S. newspaper reported that the appointment of Ambassador Barros had been rejected in the United States because of his anti-Semitic inclinations, which became apparent in a publication he directed in the past.

In this regard, Col Julio today said that any information concerning appointments of ambassadors is strictly confidential. Concerning the possible appointment of Ambassador Mario Barros, he said:

[Begin Julio recording] I will not tell you whether a petition has been made to obtain the agreement for the appointment of Mr Barros or whether this petition will be presented or not. Thirdly, what I can categorically tell you is that no petition for an agreement has been turned down. I am afraid someone may have misinterpreted some information. [end recording]

Julio added that in any case the Foreign Ministry has not yet made any decision about the new Chilean ambassador to the United States.

Julio termed malicious THE NEW YORK TIMES and similar reports. He noted that there are some who wanted to prevent the appointment of Ambassador Barros as the new Chilean ambassador to the United States.

COMMISSION HEAD ON U.S. COPPER FIRMS, SUBSIDIES

PY241917 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Chile will use every legal means to counteract the protectionist initiatives of some U.S. copper companies, according to the interministerial coordinator of the Copper Interests Defense Commission, Enrique Valenzuela (Blantier). The former mines minister spoke to some 300 members of the Chilean-U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Valenzuela said that the problems affecting the U.S. companies cannot be blamed on Chilean exports, and expressed his hope that the problems will be temporary. He recalled that the commercial links between Chile and the United States will not adopt protectionist measures contrary to Chile's interests.

The former ambassador to the United States added that the U.S. copper companies are affected by the depressed international price of the metal, although the ultimate cause is to be found in the worldwide recession which has slackened demand. Furthermore, Valenzuela said, some of those companies had to close because of the diminishing content of copper in their ore. He ended by denying assertions by U.S. company executives that Chile is subsidizing some companies: There are no subsidies here.

PINOCHET REAFFIRMS CONFIDENCE IN PAPAL MEDIATION

PY242220 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has reiterated the Chilean Government's absolute confidence in reaching an honorable, just, and equitable agreement with Argentina over the southern border conflict which is under the mediation of Pope John Paul II. General Pinochet made these remarks at the ceremony in which the new Argentine ambassador, Jose Maria Alvarez de Toledo, presented his credentials in the O'Higgins Hall of La Moneda Palace at noon today.

The chief of state also said that peace between the two nations should be strengthened with a broad policy of integration to ensure a prosperous future for the two nations and for Latin America. The chief of state added that Argentina and Chile have a common destiny and that this task should be an example for the Americas.

The new Argentine ambassador recalled the peace and friendship declaration signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries last January in Rome, emphasizing that he was beginning his mission in Chile under the guidelines of that declaration. The official ceremony was also attended by Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle and other government and diplomatic officials.

MAPUCHE INDIAN LEADERS DETAINED BY CARABINEROS

PY241600 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1409 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 24 Apr (EFE) -- Jose Santos Millao, national president of the "Ad Mapu" Mapuche Indian Association, and Rosamel Millaman, secretary general and treasurer of the South American Indian Council [CISA -- Consejo Indio Sudamericano], were detained today with five other Indian leaders in the southern part of Chile.

Santos Millao was detained with other Mapuche Indians in the zone of Contulmo, some 600 km south of Santiago, by Carabineros and military agents, Indian leaders told reporters. Millaman was detained upon getting out of a cab in the city of Temuco, 700 km south of Santiago.

The "Ad Mapu" Mapuche organization represents more than 50 percent of the 500,000 Mapuches Chilean native Indians. This organization emerged in 1978 under the protection of the Catholic Church when the government of General Pinochet decided to divide the Indian communities. Since then it has fought for the rights of the Chilean Indians who live between Concepcion and Valdivia, in the Temuco zone, southern Chile, and today it is an autonomous organization.

According to leaders of the Mapuche organization, the Carabineros and military agents accused the Indian leaders of carrying out "political activities," made out dossiers on them, took their pictures, and transferred them to Lebu, in the zone of Concepcion.

A petition for a court injunction has been submitted on behalf of all the detainees, and the Mapuche Indians have declared a general state of alert to demand the release of their top leaders.

M-19 ANNOUNCES PEACE ACCORD POSSIBILITY

PA240415 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Bogota, 23 Apr (EFE) -- The 19 April Movement, "M-19," guerrilla group tonight announced the possibility of signing a peace agreement with the Colombian Government in the next 30 days. This information was given by M-19 ideologist Carlos Toledo Plata in an interview granted to the Bogota radio station RCN. According to Toledo Plata, the agreement, which is being discussed with other guerrilla groups and sectors of national opinion, including the political parties, addresses specific topics on agrarian reform, reduction of the military forces' budget, and total guarantees for the M-19 to become a legally recognized political movement.

Regarding the guerrilla group's armed actions, Toledo Plata said that "if we are seeking peace it is because we are at war," and added that the operations will continue until the M-19 reaches an agreement with the government. After stressing the agreement signed last March between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the rebel leader said that the one to be signed by the M-19 will be in similar terms, but with some modifications.

"Now is the best time in the country," he added, "to secure a definitive peace agreement between the government and all the guerrilla groups." He congratulated President Belisario Betancur for his "admirable persistence in the quest for peace." He added that weapons do not constitute any obstacle in the country's pacification process, and said also that "if we are left without weapons, we can obtain them again in the international market, although we have not spoken of turning them over."

The announcement of the possibility of signing a peace agreement between the M-19 and the government occurs hours after a guerrilla group raided the installations of the evening newspaper El BOGOTANO and published a 12-page document proposing a democratic opening to the government.

POLICE THWART FARC ATTEMPT TO OCCUPY TOWN

PA240409 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Bucaramanga -- At least five guerrillas of the clandestine Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, were wounded in the past few hours during an exchange of fire with the police when a group of FARC guerrillas attempted to occupy the town of Sucre.

[Name indistinct], commander of the Army's 2d Division, has reported that approximately 10 subversives tried to occupy the town, but were repelled by several policemen who forced them to flee to a mountainous area. According to preliminary reports, several subversives were wounded and taken away by the fleeing guerrillas. At this time, units of the [name indistinct] Battalion and policemen are pursuing the guerrillas.

USSR ENVOY SCORES MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS

FL250012 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2030 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The mining of Puerto Corinto, Nicaragua, is a demonstration of how the United States uses terrorism to infiltrate its imperialist ideology into various countries of the world, Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev has asserted.

In an exclusive interview with the government daily EL NACIONAL, Sergeyev charged that the United States, upset by the resistance of unprotected countries when it attempts to impose its system and ideology, opts for escalating the situation toward war. The diplomat said that today the American nation is divided between its philosophy and the existence of the world socialist system. Sergeyev said it is not possible to transform the ideological contraposition into a military contraposition because it would cause greater world instability.

Declaring himself a supporter of limitation of military maneuvers in Central America and the Middle East, the Soviet ambassador stressed that the threat to the world exists because the U.S. Government is continuing to try to impose its system and military superiority on other peoples who do not accept its authority. Sergeyev said that it is necessary to create the means which would lead to detente, such as freezing nuclear arms and the deployment of medium-range missiles as well as withdrawing those already deployed in some European countries.

The ambassador said the Soviet Union advocates the development of relations with the United States, but that country has chosen a posture of struggle against socialism which hinders the possibility of talks between them.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NICARAGUA

FL250158 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Government today announced that it has signed an economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and educational cooperation agreement with Nicaragua. The Foreign Secretariat announced in the federation's official newspaper the contents of the agreement, whose goal is to promote and step up comprehensive cooperation between the two countries as a means to support their own national development objectives, the document notes.

The agreement points out that a joint commission composed of representatives of the two countries will establish a biennial work program comprising various areas of cooperation. The joint commission will meet every 2 years alternately in Mexico and Nicaragua, on dates arranged through diplomatic channels. Likewise, there will be extraordinary meetings agreed to by both sides.

The agreement can be modified by consent of the joint commission when proposed by either side. The agreement will last 5 years and can be extended by tacit agreement in equal additional periods of time.

C.A. FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN SAN SALVADOR

PA250021 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Central American foreign ministers, with the exception of Nicaragua's will meet tomorrow in San Salvador to discuss viewpoints for the forthcoming meeting with the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) foreign ministers.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez told ACAN-EFE that the meeting tomorrow is routine, since in the past the Central American foreign ministers have held differing positions and consequently they now hold periodic meetings to "compare their opinions." Gutierrez said that at tomorrow's meeting in San Salvador they will not decide on a joint policy with regard to the region's problems, since this will be analyzed at the end of April in Panama.

The Central American foreign ministers will be in San Salvador only a few hours and will then return to their respective countries.

COSTA RICAREPORTAGE ON NEW YORK TIMES BRIBE ALLEGATIONS

Government Seeks Reporter

PA232018 Paris AFP in Spanish 1946 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 23 Apr (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government will ask the U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES for evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is bribing Costa Rican public officials into cooperating with the anti-Sandinist groups, it has been officially reported. Deputy Security Minister Johnny Campos has ordered that U.S. newsman Joel Brinkley, who wrote the report, be sought "so he will present evidence on these serious charges" that were raised by the newspapers in a report datelined Costa Rica. "We will consult the attorney general's office in order to consider the possibility of charging him with defamation or slander before the courts" if Brinkley -- who may or may not be in Costa Rica -- does not supply the pertinent evidence, said Campos.

Brinkley published a report in THE NEW YORK TIMES that the Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist organization Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) is bribing Costa Rican public officials with money from the CIA. Campos said this "is one more infamous action within the international slander campaign against Costa Rica to depict it as a country that is lending itself to an attack on Nicaragua." The deputy minister said that newspapers like THE NEW YORK TIMES and the North American television network ABC, which aired similar reports, "are being used to wage this campaign against Costa Rica."

Foreign Minister Comments

PA241448 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The charges by THE NEW YORK TIMES that Costa Rican Government officials have received bribes to allow the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, to operate in Costa Rica under total CIA control are extremely serious and harmful, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said.

He added, nevertheless, that Fernando Zumbado, ambassador to the United Nations, talked with the newspaper's international editor who said that they have no evidence but that the information was given to them by a Costa Rican Government official whom they consider fully reliable. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES report, several officials in President Monge's government are receiving bribes to allow ARDE to carry out its operations and military movements in our territory.

In view of the serious damage to Costa Rica from this type of report, since doubts are being cast not only on Costa Rica's avowed neutrality but on the morality of its government officials, an explanation will be requested from THE NEW YORK TIMES, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said.

Because THE NEW YORK TIMES said that it obtained the report from government officials, the newsman's allegations create a very delicate problem in relations between Costa Rican and U.S. Government institutions. However, since the newspaper has no evidence we are dealing with hearsay. For this reason, no course of action can be taken at the government level, so THE NEW YORK TIMES itself must clear up this situation, which is based on rumors.

The charges raised in the report are extremely serious because they depict the Monge administration as having among its officials people of such low moral standards that they accept bribes against the government's own policies, the foreign minister said. All these things must be substantiated so the government can determine where the responsibility lies, said Gutierrez. He added that this type of information only harms the government's prestige. He reiterated that evidence must be demanded because news-men, as in the case of THE NEW YORK TIMES, report rumors and submit no evidence.

OFFICIAL: U.S., ARDE CAMPS ON NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA241703 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1615 GMT 24 Apr 84

[By Juan Antonio de Lucas]

[Excerpt] San Jose, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- An important Costa Rican official today told ACAN-EFE that U.S. soldiers and anti-Sandinist guerrillas of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, have permanent camps in northern Costa Rica. The source, who asked not to be identified, said that "U.S. soldiers are stationed in San Carlos canton, Alajuela Province, but that their presence has not been officially admitted so far."

The source added: "In that same region, near the border with Nicaragua, the anti-Sandinist ARDE guerrillas under Eden Pastora have a training camp." Official Costa Rican Government sources have said they "know nothing about this information" and pointed to Costa Rica's policy of neutrality toward the Central American conflict.

The official sources said: "The government does not accept the presence of U.S. military forces in our territory and neither does it accept the presence of anti-Sandinist ARDE elements who come from Nicaragua."

But the official who provided the information, who holds an important position in the administration, stated: "It is a fact that there are secret sites in our country and that U.S. soldiers are building antiaircraft defense installations near Nicaragua." The public official did not point out the exact location of the secret sites where, according to him, the United States and ARDE have their military camps but said that "both are on privately owned land in San Carlos, a sparsely populated area in the middle sector along the Nicaraguan border where many persons have seen men in uniforms."

EL SALVADORPRESIDENT MEETS WITH CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL

PA250111 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana told the Central Electoral Council [CCE] that he will soon issue an opinion on the reforms in the electoral law and on the requests that he veto those reforms. Jorge Alberto Hernandez, Democratic Action member of the CCE, confirmed that a meeting was held yesterday between the CCE and the Salvadoran president. He said:

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] The entire CCE held a meeting with President Magana at noon. It was quite significant because a number of opinions were expressed. There was an objective discussion. The president was briefed on the electoral register and the contents of Decree 64 of the Constituent Assembly, which as president he will have to either approve or veto.

[Unidentified reporter] The CCE has asked that he veto these reforms. What do you think is the president's position on these reforms? We suppose that as president he must already know about this issue.

[Hernandez] I saw that the president is concerned because of the seriousness of the situation and that in view of his experience he is fully aware of the problem. The council was interested in hearing him say that he will announce his veto or approval as soon as possible. He did not advance any opinion, because the reason for meeting with us was precisely to obtain additional facts to formulate an opinion on the situation so as to make the most appropriate decision. [end recording]

D'AUBUISSON EXPLAINS OPPOSITION TO VOTER LISTS

PA250107 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 0330 GMT 24 Apr 84

["Excerpt" of news conference held by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, at ARENA headquarters in San Salvador on 23 April -- recorded]

[Excerpts] (?Thank you) for accepting our invitation to hear a statement on the legal, constitutional, and corrective modifications that several parties requested in the Constituent Assembly to modify the transitional law that was in effect for the 25 March elections. It has been said that what we have done is unconstitutional. Some have said that the president of the Republic should veto the reforms to this law. A number of opinions have been expressed, such as the recent remarks on television by Dr Morales Ehrlich [Christian Democratic Party leader], which have been repeated on the radio.

I want to say clearly that what we have requested is legal. First of all, when the Constitution establishes that a registry must exist, we are talking about an autonomous registry. You all know this perfectly well. It is established in Article (??). However, for this election there was not enough time for the Central Electoral Council [CCE] to draw up an autonomous registry. Autonomous means that it must be drawn up solely by the CCE, and that it must be different from any other existing registry. The 25 March elections were convoked through Decree 37, no, excuse me, Constituent Assembly Decree 36. In view of the doubts about whether there was going to be enough time to draw up a registry, Article 3 of Decree 36 established that the elections could be held with a prior registry and/or other mechanisms.

The transitional electoral law also clearly established that the CCE had to present the registry on 10 March, something that it did not do. However, the important thing on which we base our request is the following: After 25 March, with all the difficulties, disorder, and problems caused by that registry, we detected that the CCE was incapable of correcting the problems in the voter lists. This is what I want to explain in more detail. The CCE was going to work on drawing up a new register on the basis of the old electoral list, updated with the identification cards that did not appear in the old voter lists.

The first voter list was sent to be printed at the (?Xerox) company. When the list was being printed there, the CCE realized that it had a number of errors and problems, but it did not stop the printing because it was working against time. Instead, another printing house was contracted so it would also print the lists as well as possible. What most worried us was that they insisted that the 6 May elections also be with lists. We found -- and this is the main point I want to stress -- that the lists that were going to be used on 6 May were the ones sent to be printed to that other printing house at the same time that the others that we used for the 25 March elections were being printed at Xerox. This means that they did not think about how to correct the big errors that the CCE members admitted were in the lists. Therefore, on 6 May we would have to use the same lists, the only difference being that they were printed on different paper by the other printing house. Proof of this is that today in the fairgrounds, where they are packing the material for the 6 May elections, the lists for Santa Ana are being packed, and they are the ones printed by the other printing house. And you can see the date that they were printed: 11 March 1984. It means that the same lists that they ordered printed in case the Xerox lists didn't work are going to be used. That has been the main reason that we tried to convince the other friendly parties to modify this aspect of the law. I repeat: That modification is not unconstitutional. Instead, it is a guarantee that the Salvadoran people can truly express their will, and that all of us can vote.

I know that if President Magana believes that the modification is unconstitutional he would have the moral obligation as president to veto it, but since he is aware that it is not unconstitutional we are sure that he will not veto it. You should understand the reason that we requested the modification was so that we could vote with only our identification card and the countermark of the signatures of the three members of the voting board on the other side of the ballot.

Therefore, gentlemen, the lists that they want to use on 6 May have not been changed to prevent the disorder that we saw on 25 March. The same geographical areas that did not appear are not going to appear in the 6 May lists. They are old lists. They have not done anything to them since 25 March. I repeat, what we have requested is eminently constitutional and seeks to issue guarantees to the Salvadoran voter.

I also want to refer to the insinuations of Morales Ehrlich, who is saying that this modification is to permit fraud, to change the people's decision, and I don't know what else. Gentlemen, the biggest liars are the Christian Democrats.

I also want to say the following publicly, since they are the ones who are crying that fraud is going to be committed and asking why ARENA requested the change in the voters list. I want to remind them now that they are trying to insinuate something, how Duarte [Christian Democratic presidential candidate] acted in 1972 when he didn't win the presidency. I want to charge formally that what Morales Ehrlich is doing is preparing the ground to seek a subsequent insurrection.

Morales Ehrlich and Duarte should know that this time there is a Constitution that is going to be respected, that there are people who have been involved in this democratic process, that he hasn't won yet, that we are going to a runoff, and that all the true Salvadorans are going to vote against their plans. They are not really interested in the change in the law because it equally affects both our parties. What they are doing is preparing the groundwork to issue a call like the one they issued in 1972. But it won't work this time, either. If once again they call on the people to revolt against our Armed Forces, the government of patriotic unity that ARENA will head will, on the basis of the laws, act; and if the last time the [word indistinct] government did not apply the law as it should have against Duarte for calling for insurrection, this time we will apply it. They are preparing the groundwork in view of their imminent failure, since those gentlemen are not going to win. We true Salvadorans are going to win.

TROOPS DEPLOYED NEAR HYDROELECTRIC DAM

PA250239 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Apr 84 pp 2, 9

[Text] Military spokesmen in eastern El Salvador have reported that terrorist groups have camped on the banks of the Lempa River, a short distance from the 15 September hydroelectric dam at km 90 of the Pan-American highway. This is considered a serious threat to the dam, so the Army has mobilized about 1,500 troops to protect the region and to comb the banks of the Lempa River.

Colonel Jorge Adalberto Cruz, commander of the Armed Forces Training Center in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department, has told local and foreign journalists that in addition to receiving supplies from Nicaragua and Cuba, the extremist groups of the FMLN also are receiving supplies from the Honduran subversives. They are receiving shoes more than anything else, Col Cruz said.

The Army is carrying out an operation called "Welfare for Usulután" that has been successful among the residents of that region, which has been seriously affected by the presence of extremist groups that go from one place to another, trying to sow unrest in rural towns, especially in the eastern region. According to military spokesmen, the Salvadoran terrorists have opened a route through the western region of Morazan Department to receive supplies of food, clothing, medicine, weapons, ammunition, and all kinds of military material.

'SUICIDE COMMAND' THREATENS ARMY, U.S. OFFICIALS

PA250502 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0435 GMT 25 Apr 84

["Urgent communique" issued by the "Suicide Command"; place not given; dated 17 April]

[Text] The Suicide Command [Comando Suicida] warns that we will never assume responsibility for the deaths of innocent civilians as a result of our actions. Therefore, we warn all relatives and friends, be they adults, women, or children, to refrain from accompanying the following targets in vehicles, especially in those with tinted glass:

1. Members of the Armed Forces General Staff.
2. Directors and officers of the repressive forces.

3. Military pilots or those who work for the Armed Forces.
4. The owners of real estate used by foreign advisers (U.S.A.).
5. The directors of autonomous institutions whose policy is reactionary.
6. Officials or representatives of embassies such as those of the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Chile, Uruguay, and so forth, as well as AID [Agency for International Development].

(??). The members of the Central Electoral Council, all the leaders of extreme rightist political parties, the deputies of the current Constituent Assembly, the paid [word indistinct], and the hooded ones [encapuchados] of D'Aubuisson and company.

Let this be published in all the mass communications media. This is an order. We will be implacable. We will win. For the coming justice of the new generations. Vanquish or die. 17 [as heard] -4-84

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS

PA242244 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran yesterday said that the U.S. military maneuvers in the Atlantic Ocean involving more than 3,000 U.S. Marines do not violate our national sovereignty at all because they are being carried out in international waters. International news agencies have reported the presence of U.S. Navy groups, which are preparing to carry out maneuvers in the Atlantic Ocean along with land and air groups. Andrade said this U.S. military contingent will not land on Guatemala's coasts; therefore, "There is nothing to say about this." National sovereignty, he asserted, will not be violated in any way. The U.S. Marines are in international waters, far beyond the limits of Guatemalan territory.

MEJIA COMMENTS ON GUERRILLAS, REFUGEES IN MEXICO

PA250040 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1916 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (EFE) -- General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, has asserted that his government has invited guerrillas operating in his country to participate "democratically in the electoral process." During an interview granted to the Mexican newspaper EL SOL DE MEXICO, Mejia indicated that Guatemalan rebels "have been invited to hold a dialogue, reconsider their stance, and incorporate themselves into Guatemalan development." Mejia stressed: "We have offered them this opportunity, and they are free to participate."

Mejia has also said that the situation in his country "is different from what some have described." He added: "There is an international campaign to discredit Guatemala. Here in Guatemala, there is a perfect fulfillment of human rights." In addition, Mejia categorically denied that a "scorched-earth policy" is being applied in Guatemala. In his opinion, such a notion has been disseminated by the guerrillas, who are steadily losing ground.

Mejia later denied any tension between Mexico and Guatemala as the result of the presence of more than 40,000 Guatemalan refugees in Mexico. Mejia pointed out: "The refugees have not caused any tension between Mexico and Guatemala. We cannot assert that the refugee camps are guerrilla training camps. I don't think this is so because we are good brothers and maintain good relations." Mejia expressed confidence that the refugees will soon return to Guatemala, where "we are building villages for them," and that they will have all kinds of guarantees. The Guatemalan official also denied that his country's Army has carried out raids into Mexico, as was said in 1983. He finally reiterated that there will be elections in his country and that it is very likely that a president will be elected by 1985. During an analysis of his government's achievements over the past 6 months, Mejia maintained that he has made progress "in political stability, the country's peaceful existence, and our social development."

HONDURAS

NICARAGUAN ARMY INCURSION REPORTED IN CHOLUTECA

PA241630 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] At approximately 0740, our correspondent in Choluteca, Guillermo Arias Rodriguez, reported that Sandinist Army elements have carried out another incursion into Honduras. The new act of aggression took place at 1430 yesterday, 23 April, and an elderly woman was wounded. The Sandinist guards entered Honduras through the town of El Coyol, El Triunfo municipality, Choluteca Department. The report indicates that while several head of cattle were being driven toward Nicaragua, companeros of the thieves fired from a small hill to protect the criminals. As a result of this shooting, the elderly woman was wounded.

NICARAGUA

U.S. SOURCE CITED ON CODE INTERCEPTION CLAIM

PA231841 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Washington -- The Reagan administration has tried to back its false charges about the aid that the revolutionary government grants to the leaders of the Salvadoran guerrillas by asserting that since 1981 thousands of coded messages have been intercepted. According to an anonymous source, the transmission system for those messages installed shortly after Reagan rose to power in the United States, is so sophisticated that it is modified daily to hinder decoding, and could only have been set up with Cuban or Soviet aid. So far the Reagan administration has been unable to back these charges against Nicaragua with reliable documents or evidence, so that even administration officials and leaders from other countries receive them skeptically, saying that this undermines any support they might try to give to the U.S. policy in Central America.

JUNTA TO DECREE END OF EMERGENCY LAW 4 MAY

PA250359 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The national emergency law will be lifted at the start of the State Council's legislative period; however, restrictions will be maintained in war zones where counterrevolutionary groups operate.

The decree and its regulations will be issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on 4 May, the day of national dignity, when the State Council starts its fifth and final legislative period. The National Assembly will assume legislative functions of 10 January 1985.

STATE COUNCIL DELEGATION TO VISIT MEXICO

PA242113 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] A State Council delegation led by its president, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, will travel to Mexico on 25 April at the invitation of the Mexican Congress. The delegation also includes Companero Domingo Sanchez Salgado, vice president of the State Council; Deputy Commander Rafael Solis; and Companera Angela Rosa Acevedo, member of the State Council's foreign committee. Companera Acevedo gives us details of the visit:

[Begin recording] [Acevedo] The main mission of Commander Nunez and the delegation is to make known to all the Mexican sectors and press the real situation of the new escalation of aggression by the U.S. Administration and the development of the (?elections).

[Unidentified reporter] Will you be meeting with government officials during your visit to Mexico?

[Acevedo] Yes, we will be meeting with the president of the Senate and the president of the Chamber of Deputies. The delegation will also be meeting with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, the president of the Mexican Supreme Court, and the most prominent leaders of the PRI.

[Reporter] What results do you expect from this trip?

[Acevedo] First of all, we want to make known and to reaffirm to the Mexican Congress Nicaragua's peaceful stance, to express thanks for the great solidarity of the Mexican Government and people, and to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] How long will you stay?

[Acevedo] Three days. [end recording]

COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR TERMS RELATIONS 'NORMAL'

PA242219 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Jesus Manuel Fernandez, Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua, has said that relations between his government and Nicaragua have returned to normal and that the stepping up of the counterrevolutionary actions against Nicaragua from Costa Rica harms the neutrality policy announced by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. Fernandez also indicated that the mixed commission meetings, which had been suspended, will be resumed in the next few days.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] Relations have returned to normal after a period during which I was recalled by the Costa Rican Government due to some border incidents that elicited a protest by the Costa Rican Government. Later, letters were exchanged between the two heads of state, namely, President Monge and Commander Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta.

In these letters, the two spoke with frankness and honesty and discussed their respective viewpoints regarding the border incidents.

I believe President Monge is very satisfied with the answer Commander Ortega sent him. Because of this satisfaction, my government then decided to return me to Managua. We have now started a period of returning to full normalcy of relations. This means that the Costa Rica-Nicaragua mixed commission, which was created as an expeditious means to resolve conflicts and overcome difficult situations that might arise, will soon resume its activities.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your government's stance on the increase in the activities of counterrevolutionary bands that are attacking Nicaragua?

[Fernandez] These actions against the Nicaraguan Government are surely affecting President Monge's neutrality policy and the status of permanent neutrality [words indistinct] declared by the Costa Rican Government. For this reason, when these situations arise, my government takes immediate action by reinforcing the Civil Guard, increasing their number in order to determine the best action to follow, be it to shoot at or even annihilate the raiders. During the most recent incidents that occurred at San Juan del Norte, a large number of Civil Guard members were mobilized in order to prevent raids from Costa Rica into Nicaragua.

We have to make constant efforts because our borders are extensive, the area involved is jungle, and it is not an easily controllable zone. It is possible to send a detachment to a specific place, but still to have bands roaming only 5 km away. As soon as we learn that activities of this type are being carried out at a specific place, our government and the Public Security Ministry send out the necessary troops to neutralize any action against the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE ISSUES PASTORAL LETTER

PA241739 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2152 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Managua, 23 Apr (DPA) -- The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference today issued a pastoral letter calling on the community to embrace "conversion and reconciliation" and to face the political, social, and economic crisis afflicting the country, which is being burdened primarily because of a war near its borders. The pastoral letter stated that Nicaragua is being adversely affected by a painful "belligerent struggle among Nicaraguans," resulting in the death of "many Nicaraguan youths and men on the battlefield." The letter also stated that other Nicaraguans "look into their future fearing that their lives could be prematurely curtailed."

It stated that in Nicaragua "materialistic and atheist education is undermining the conscience of children and youths," also resulting in "the division of many families due to political differences." The Nicaraguan bishops' letter states that "the suffering of mothers who have lost their sons, and who deserve all our respect, consolation, and help, is being manipulated to incite hatred and vengeance."

The letter also stated: "The peasants and Indians, for whom the church feels special love, suffer and live in constant anxiety; moreover, many of them are being forced to leave their homes in search of peace and tranquillity which they are not enjoying."

The bishops said that some communications media are "using a language full of hatred that is favoring a violent atmosphere."

In addition, the letter commented on the division within the Catholic Church: "A small section of our church has drawn away from us and yielded to the orders of a materialistic ideology." This causes "confusion within our country and abroad. It is a campaign to praise their own ideas and to defame the legitimate pastors and their faithful followers."

The letter stated that "censorship of the press hinders the clarification of positions and the expression of other viewpoints." It also stated that "foreign powers are taking advantage of Nicaragua's situation to promote economic and ideological exploitation. The Nicaraguan bishops said: "They see us as a means to support their power, without respect for us, our history, our culture, and our right to determine our own future."

As a result of this, most Nicaraguans are living in fear of their present situation and are unsure of their future; they are experiencing profound frustration, are crying out for peace and freedom, but their voices are unheard; they are silenced by belligerent propaganda from one side or the other," the bishop's document added.

The top Nicaraguan church leaders pointed out that the causes of these evils are "injustice and oppression, greedy exploitation, political ambition, and abuse of power. Other causes include disdain for moral and religious values, lack of respect for human dignity, and forgetfulness, abandonment, and denial of God." According to the bishops, the solution to the Nicaraguan situation is conversion to make us "turn our eyes and hearts toward God, our Father, who offers through Christ the genuine meaning of reconciliation, pardon, and peace."

The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference proposes "a sincere dialogue to seek truth and goodness." It added: It is not honest always to justify domestic aggression and violence with aggression coming from abroad." Talks must be "without bias." "In fact, we believe that the armed Nicaraguan rebels opposing the government must also take part in this dialogue. Otherwise, there will be no resolution, and our people, especially the poorer classes, will continue to suffer and die."

This dialogue "is not a tactical truce to strengthen positions and to continue the struggle, but a sincere effort to reply to the anguish, pain, weariness, and fatigue of many, many people who long for peace by seeking appropriate solutions to alleviate them." The bishops point out that "it is urgent to exchange distrust and aggressiveness for respect and harmony in an environment allowing for honest and objective discussion of situations and a prudent search for the means to achieve this. The remedy is reconciliation." The bishops' letter also points out that "freedom of speech is a vital part of a person's dignity" and "hence, the right to express one's ideas must be recognized."

Political Leaders Rap Letter

PA241954 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The country's educational policy cannot be questioned because the revolutionary government permits and subsidizes religious education in Nicaragua. This statement was made by Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman. The Education Ministry subsidizes 20 religious schools and the state budget has allocated 60 million cordobas to cover all sort of expenditures in those schools, including the salary of teachers, Tunnerman said.

Cesar Delgadillo, leader of the People's Social Christian Party, has characterized the statement made by the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua as an act of complicity with the counterrevolutionary hands that are murdering our people.

The Episcopal Conference has stated that it is necessary to initiate a national dialogue that would include the counterrevolutionary chieftains settled in Costa Rica and Honduras.

[Begin recording] [Delgadillo] They have reiterated on many occasions that a dialogue with the forces that are in Nicaragua, only in Nicaragua, will be a contribution, but we cannot, under any circumstances, consider a dialogue with traitors and counterrevolutionaries who have murdered and massacred our people, mined our ports, and destroyed economic objectives to harm the sovereignty and the economic well-being of the Nicaraguan people.

[Unidentified reporter] How would you characterize the position of the Episcopal Conference and the traditional political parties that adopt the line of dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries?

[Delgadillo] I would say that to promote a dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries sponsored by the Reagan administration, who are partners of the CIA, is to play the role of an echo of the counterrevolution. Such a position works against Nicaragua and, to a certain extent, those who hold that position are making themselves accomplices of everything the counterrevolutionaries, who are advised by the CIA, are doing in Nicaragua. [end recording]

The Patriotic Front of the Revolution, FPR, has termed the pastoral letter issued by the Catholic leadership confusing and lacking in realistic proposals on how to resolve the problem of aggression the country is enduring.

The bishops' document calls for a reconciliation with the insurgents as a way to resolve social problems and counterrevolutionary aggressions. The FPR refers to this noting that the bishops' document does not contribute to the quest for real, viable, and objective resolutions to the aggression situation.

A spokesman for the PPSC [Popular Social Christian Party] said that the pastoral letter is irresponsible. The Nicaraguan Socialist Party, PSN, has deplored the church leadership's placing itself on the side of the people's enemies who are financing and arming the counterrevolutionary bands. The PSN believes that the differences between the Catholic leadership and the government should be resolved through a dialogue, but the pastoral letter, unfortunately, has closed this possibility because it sides with the enemies of the Nicaraguan people, said Luis Sanchez, secretary general of the PSN.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS CLASHES, CASUALTIES

PA242138 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry Public and Foreign Relations Directorate in Managua on 23 April]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports that during the week of 16-23 April imperialist mercenary counterrevolutionary forces that infiltrated from Honduras and Costa Rica tried to carry out an offensive in various sectors of the country. The forces were repelled by our troops and lost 120 dead and a large number of wounded and prisoners. Clashes were reported in the Nueva Guinea sectors of La Laguna, El Porvenir, and El Almacen. In the sector of Cerro Kilambe, west of the (Puas) Valley, in northern Jinotega Department, the counterrevolutionary forces suffered overwhelming blows and 45 dead. North of San Sebastian de Yali, Jinotega Department, the enemy suffered 30 dead in several clashes, and it is thought that even more were killed, according to the evidence of search operations carried out in the area.

The counterrevolutionary attacks were mostly against economic objectives, along with killing and kidnapping civilians, as occurred in the Miskito settlement in Sumubila in northern Zelaya, which has already been reported.

In addition, the counterrevolutionaries attacked the cooperative in Kurinwas; the UPE [State Production Units] in San Gabriel and La Paz southeast of San Sebastian de Yali; Teosintal, northwest of the (Puas) Valley; and Wamblansito, northeast of Wiwili.

On our side, 19 companeros of the Sandinist People's Army fell heroically defending the homeland.

ARDE'S ROBELO DENIES CIA LINKS, FINANCIAL AID

PA240400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Alfonso Robelo, political leader of the Nicaraguan opposition group Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), said here today that an "insidious international campaign" has been launched against his organization. He added that the shadiest forces from the left and the right, as well as the "CIA" and the "KGB," are involved in this campaign. During a meeting with the press in this capital, Robelo "categorically" denied that ARDE receives money from the CIA or that ARDE is a CIA "puppet." "The orders in this political and military organizations are given by Nicaraguans, and not by Cubans, Soviets, or U.S. citizens," while according to Robelo the Managua leaders cannot say the same.

Robelo said, "We cannot discard the possibility that the CIA and other U.S. reactionary groups may try to implicate us so we will appear more similar to other groups."

Robelo insisted, however, that ARDE is a third path, an independent force made up of Nicaraguans to rescue the Nicaraguan people. In replying to the journalists, Robelo said that ARDE receives financial aid from German and Venezuelan citizens, Mexican organizations, U.S. Jewish organizations, as well as from Germans [as received] and Cubans in exile. "Where do they get funds to help ARDE? We don't care, because the important thing is that no one gives us orders, as we will not accept orders from a foreigner," Robelo told the press.

BRIEFS

BRITISH GROUP VISITS -- A British group composed of 12 persons -- including journalists, attorneys, students, and a theater director -- belonging to committees of solidarity with Nicaragua is visiting the country. All the members of the group belong to the British pacifist movement, which is struggling against the installation of missiles in Europe. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Apr 84 PA]

NEW FIR DIRECTOR -- Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, installed Pedro Antonio Blandon as director of the International Reconstruction Fund [FIR], Francisco Sanchez as deputy domestic trade minister, and Dr Julio Norori as general manager of the Pharmaceutical Corporation [Corporacion Farmaceutica]. The ceremony took place at Government House. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Apr 84 p 9]

BOMB IN ANGOLA KILLS 14 INTERNATIONALIST WORKERS

FL251220 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The newspaper GRANMA publishes in today's, Wednesday's, edition a detailed article on the criminal dynamiting attack which was committed on 19 April by agents in the service of Yankee imperialism and the South African racists against Cuban civilian internationalists in the Angolan city of Huambo. A vehicle loaded with explosives, which had been parked earlier on an avenue near the 11-story building housing the Cuban workers, was detonated approximately 20 meters from the building.

Among the internationalists were construction, education, and public health workers. The brutal act killed 14 internationalist construction workers and 10 Angolan civilians, including women and children. The explosion also caused about 100 injuries to individuals of both nationalities, including 66 Cubans -- 34 women and 32 men.

The Cuban people indignantly condemn this criminal attack and express their disposition to continue carrying out internationalist missions.

UN ENVOY BLAMES U.S. FOR SERIOUS WORLD SITUATION

FL242131 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Cuba has charged that the serious and dangerous international situation is due to the warlike behavior of the United States and some of its allies. In a speech before the UN Conference on Disarmament, Cuban representative Carlos Lechuga asserted it does not require much pondering to reach that conclusion because the facts are in plain sight.

Regarding the prohibition of nuclear arms tests, there is an impressive amount of documentation and 20 years of accumulated experience, but nevertheless the United States believes that only the first steps have been taken to reach the negotiations.

Lechuga indicated that the same thing is happening in regard to putting an end to the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, issues on which not even a subsidiary body with unlimited mandate has been established.

CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR MEETING

FL250207 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] A delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic this afternoon arrived at the Jose Marti International Airport. The delegation headed by Deputy Premier Ladislav Gerle was welcomed by Joel Domenech Benitez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Minister of Basic Industry Marcos Portal.

Gerle will head his country's delegation at the eighth meeting of the Cuban-Czechoslovak Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which will hold working sessions from 25 April to 1 May.

The delegation will visit the Havana Province Hector Molina Sugar Mill, the Nuevitas thermoelectric power plant, and the developing Moa mining area, and will hold talks with party and government leaders.

NICARAGUA'S CULTURE MINISTER, URUGUAYAN ARRIVE

FL250219 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal and Mario (Benedetti), an outstanding Uruguayan intellectual, arrived this afternoon in Cuba. The two personalities were met at the airport by Roberto Fernandez Retamar, first vice president of the Casa de las Americas.

Cardenal and (Benedetti) will attend the festivities marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Casa de las Americas, and will also participate in the third meeting of the standing committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America, which will be held shortly in Cuba.

IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION GROUP VISITS BULGARIA

FL242222 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] A working group from Cuba's Communist Party Department of Revolutionary Orientation, headed by Humberto Rodriguez Manso, has been received in Sofia by Milko Balev, Politburo member and secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP]. They discussed how the two parties work toward building a new society.

REAGAN'S ASIA TRIP SEEN AS 'DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE'

FL241540 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Commentary by (Efrain Ferrer) and (Isabel Lage) -- live]

[Text] [(Lage)] Good morning, good morning, dear viewers. Our commentary on Revista [name of news program] deals with the visit by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Asia as part of the diplomatic offensive that the Washington administration is carrying out on the Asian Continent. This is Reagan's second visit to Asia in less than 6 months. (Efrain), we think this initiative and big diplomatic offensive that President Ronald Reagan is making toward the Asian Continent is aimed at increasing the U.S. presence -- economic as well as military -- in China, basically, and also in South Korea and Japan.

[(Ferrer)] Yes, logically there are several objectives for this visit by President Reagan to China, which will begin in 2 days. This Thursday U.S. President Ronald Reagan will arrive in Beijing for a 6-day visit -- his first to that country -- which shows the U.S. interest in having closer ties with the Chinese Government.

The Chinese-U.S. rapprochement was initiated 13 years ago in April, 1971, with the so-called ping-pong diplomacy, when the Chinese Government invited a U.S. table tennis team to participate in a tournament in Beijing. Later, in February 1972, then-President Richard Nixon visited Beijing, and 3 years later, in 1975, another U.S. president, Gerald Ford, visited China. In December 1978, China and the United States signed a joint communique announcing their intention to establish diplomatic relations. A few days later, 1 January 1979, diplomatic relations were officially established between China and the United States. For years the United States had insistently blocked the entry of China into the United Nations.

"Since then -- with a few ups and downs, such as the one concerning Taiwan, which the United States continues to recognize -- Chinese-U.S. relations have been developing. And now, with Reagan's visit, an attempt will be made by Beijing as well as by Washington to strengthen these links.

In traveling to China, Reagan last Thursday left Washington for California and yesterday he flew to Hawaii. Later today he will go to Guam and from there he will travel Thursday to Beijing. In Beijing, according to plans, he will hold 7 to 8 hours of meetings with the highest Chinese leaders.

[(Lage)] Also, (Ferrer), we must point out that in accordance with these negotiations, the United States is attempting to establish its presence in China for the next 50 years by the economic contracts and the military contracts that will be signed -- because it is known that President Ronald Reagan is going to sign an ambitious program for the construction of nuclear power plants in China, and this increases the U.S. presence in China in this respect and in the military aspect.

It is necessary to point out that beginning with the Reagan administration, there has been a strengthening of U.S. relations with Asia -- basically with China. It is also necessary to say that beginning last year, the United States began -- after Secretary of Defense Weinberger's visit to Beijing -- to provide China with new types of weapons and to try to get the Beijing government to take Washington's considerations into account as it uses this military development.

[(Ferrer)] Yes, and it is necessary to point out in connection with Reagan's trip to China that you cannot lose sight of the election objectives of the trip, because it comes just a few months before the next U.S. presidential elections in November. Reagan is thus perhaps trying to gain favor in the area of foreign policy, where he has lost so much ground recently, following the failed U.S. military presence in Lebanon and also with the recent revelations of the direct participation of the CIA and the U.S. Government in the anti-Nicaraguan policy in Central America.

On the eve of Reagan's departure to China, the specialized U.S. magazine AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY pointed out a few days ago that the Chinese Government is taking measures to persuade U.S. authorities to sell them AWACS radar airplanes to strengthen China's border vigilance. China has shown interest in obtaining U.S. military technology to modernize its Armed Forces. Last March a Chinese military delegation met with Pentagon officials in Washington to try to establish contacts with the upcoming visit in June 1983 of the Chinese defense minister to the United States. On that occasion, the Chinese military delegation contacted those Pentagon officials and U.S. businessmen. They also tried to make agreements for the future acquisition of U.S. weapons.

Regarding this Chinese request that the United States sell AWACS airplanes to Beijing, the Chinese, lacking the financial resources to buy these airplanes -- each costs about \$70 million -- have requested that the U.S. Government finance the purchase of these airplanes through its foreign military aid programs. Although it has not yet been specified how many AWACS airplanes the Chinese want to acquire in the United States, the magazine we referred to stated that last year the United States had become more flexible with regard to its exports to China, now classified as a friend if not an ally of Washington, although indications are that attempts will be made to make China an ally of the United States.

[(Lage)] Yes, that is indisputable, (Ferrer). It is also necessary to say that since last June China has been working on the construction of 10 new long-range missile launching bases. These missiles are designated CSS-4's and they can reach objectives 14,200 km away. There are also other missiles -- CS-3's -- that have a shorter range. This type of missile can reach Western Europe. All of this, it is necessary to point out, conforms to Washington's policy aimed at seeking a confrontation with the Soviet Union.

It is necessary to be realistic in this case, although Washington states that this is not the case with the Beijing government, although it is perfectly well known how the Beijing government constantly attacks the Vietnamese border, how the Beijing government also promotes armed actions by counterrevolutionary groups against Afghanistan. It is also necessary to point out that China encourages this type of military action against India as well as offensive diplomatic actions. We must also say that the Beijing administration accepts the participation of the U.S. Government in the destabilization of revolutionary and progressive governments in the area. And Beijing serves Washington as a center of operations and action against those countries mentioned earlier, and recently with its attacks against the Vietnamese people along the Chinese border.

Well, with this rearming of Beijing with new types of weapons the situation is solidifying.

[(Ferrer)] Yes, returning to this insistent Chinese request to obtain U.S. weapons, we can recall that a specialist from the House of Representatives in these matters of arms sales to foreign countries pointed out that Reagan could commit himself to Congress to sell those airplanes to Beijing, if he previously [changes thought] that is, this transaction could occur if he promised the U.S. Congress that this sale would be in the interest of the security of the United States.

In September of last year, during a visit that U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger made to Beijing, he said that the United States and China had already reached agreement on areas of possible technology transfers and shipments of U.S. weapons to Beijing. These statements by the Pentagon chief were in agreement with statements made in Washington at about the same time by the U.S. secretary of commerce who said that the United States was establishing a new trade policy with China regarding the export of technology and weapons. This new trade policy is, of course, now going to be taken advantage of by the Chinese during Reagan's visit, and they will insist on acquiring U.S. weapons.

[(Lage)] Also, for example, in 1983, U.S. companies invested \$676 million in China, setting up 21 joint companies, which demonstrates the increased U.S. penetration in different sectors of the Chinese economy. And I think, (Ferrer), that one must not lose sight of the strategy -- economic as well as political -- that is behind this rapprochement with the Chinese leaders and this solidification of the U.S. military presence in the region, including the recently concluded military maneuvers with South Korea, "Team Spirit-84", which are considered to be the largest ever carried out on that continent by U.S. troops and... Our time has run out and we must end our commentary for today.

U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS BEGIN IN PUERTO RICO

PA250054 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] U.S. Marines began military exercises this Monday on Puerto Rico's Vieques Island as part of the "Ocean Venture-84" naval maneuvers in the Caribbean. The simulated war action was initiated despite protests from Vieques fishermen, the National Ecumenical Movement, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and the Puerto Rican Independence Party.

Lieutenant (John Tull), U.S. Marine press spokesman in Puerto Rico, said there has been an agreement with the fishermen whereby they can inspect their nets for 2 hours every 4 days until the exercises conclude on 6 May. However, Carlos Castano, mayor of Vieques, has said that an injunction has been obtained from the Puerto Rican courts to arrest fishermen who attempt to interrupt the maneuvers.

DEMONSTRATIONS, VIOLENCE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PA250225 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Five persons were killed, 30 injured, and hundreds arrested in the Dominican Republic on Monday, when combined Army and police forces violently repressed demonstrators protesting the increased prices ordered by the IMF. The increased prices, which include high-demand articles such as food, were arranged by the authorities in accordance with a condition imposed by the IMF to granting the Dominican Government credit for payment of the country's foreign debt, now totalling \$2.6 billion.

Prior to this, it was reported that police in Santo Domingo arrested Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party, along with two other militants of that organization, as well as Hamlet Herman (Rodriguez), a university professor and former guerrilla fighter. According to the police report, the arrests were made with the aim of carrying out an investigation.

CONTRA OFFENSIVES DEFEATED IN NICARAGUA

PA240431 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Report by Francisco Urizarri, PRENSA LATINA correspondent in Managua]

[Text] The newest and biggest counterrevolutionary offensives launched against Nicaragua last week suffered serious setbacks in northern and southern Nicaragua. No matter how big Washington's logistical support for the mercenary forces that try to seize a piece of Nicaraguan territory, the results are always the same: failure.

The biggest propaganda show staged by the White House has just been laid bare and left in ridicule. Eden Pastora with 500 counterrevolutionaries tried to occupy the old Port of San Juan del Norte, a small abandoned location in Nicaragua's southeast corner. A garrison of 78 men fought hard there against a force superior in men and weapons. The attackers were armed with the most modern light weapons supplied by the CIA: mortars, grenade launchers, and rifles. All of this to occupy that remote location and to announce with great fanfare to many journalists that he was going to create a provisional government. A few hours later Pastora and his men took to their heels in the face of the thrust of Sandinist forces that forced him to flee to his Costa Rican refuge.

Despite the trip of the Costa Rican journalists to that zone and the infrastructure set up in the neighboring country, the Luis Alberto Monge administration announced a few days later that neither the aggression nor the mercenaries came from that nation, and that the mercenaries do not receive support from government officials. The Sandinist government warned that Costa Rica's proclaimed neutrality is not being practiced, something that signifies a new obstacle for the longed-for Central American peace.

Meanwhile, in northern Nicaragua, the battalions of the Army and the inexperienced troops of the patriotic military service dealt hard blows to the thousands of counterrevolutionaries who entered from Honduras. In the past 7 days it has been reported that 34 mercenaries were killed near Cerro (Eslao), Jinotega Department. Meanwhile, the pursuit continues of various task forces that have entered that extensive border region.

The Miskito settlement of Sumubila was also attacked, leaving dead, wounded, and destruction. However, the counterrevolutionaries could not achieve their objective of occupying that settlement.

The White House attempts to overthrow the Sandinist people's revolution have not stopped, and every day its policy becomes more aggressive. This was shown by its refusal to approve the appointment of Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga as Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington. That action plus the support of the mercenaries, the mining of ports, and the thousands of soldiers, airplanes, and ships it has in the region reaffirm the Reagan administration's warmongering policy.

NICARAGUAN DEFENSE MINISTRY CITED ON CLASHES

PA250028 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported that in the past 8 days some 120 counterrevolutionaries from Honduras in the north and from Costa Rica in the south were killed in combat. An official communique issued in Managua referred to clashes that took place in various areas of Jinotega and Zelaya Departments and stressed that most of the counterrevolutionary attacks were against economic targets.

The newspaper BARRICADA presented a special report stating that the German Pomares Battalion for Irregular Warfare forced a regional command of 600 mercenaries -- led by former Somozist officer Mike Lima -- to flee from an area near Wiwili in Jinotega Department. The newspaper stated that the anti-Sandinist [as heard] forces seized ammunition and war materiel, as well as maps and important information on the objectives of the mercenary regional command, on whom they inflicted 60 casualties.

The Costa Rican newspaper EL DEBATE has stated that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency maintains a steady flow of war materiel to the anti-Sandinist forces and threatens to suspend money and arms shipments if they do not obey CIA orders. The newspaper added that according to agents from the Costa Rican Judicial Investigation Organization, last Saturday and Sunday at least 20 wounded anti-Sandinists entered the country illegally and were transferred to Costa Rican hospitals.

JORGE'S DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS VIEWED

FL242101 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 15 Apr 84 section 2, p 1 A

[By Jose Romero, economic editor]

[Excerpts] On his return to the Dominican Republic, President Salvador Jorge Blanco brought back with him papers dealing with several of the more important economy-related negotiations he conducted on his trip to the United States, such as emergency aid requested of President Reagan, negotiations with the IMF, and renegotiation of the external debt before the Paris Club.

It is expected that a slightly more than \$200-million aid package will result from his trip. The money will be used immediately to alleviate current trade obligations without lessening food supplies and other obligations.

Jorge Blanco's efforts dealt specifically with meeting directly with President Reagan and arranging an immediate aid package for containing inflation; meeting directly with IMF director Jacques de Larosiere and petitioning him to soften the IMF agreement because of its impact on the low-income sector; meeting directly with World Bank Director A.W. Clausen on this organization's refusal to continue financing the Dominican Republic without first signing an agreement with the IMF; and meeting with AID, which has frozen \$40 million worth of aid.

Jorge Blanco discussed two more subjects with President Reagan. The first was approval for renegotiating the Dominican-U.S. debt at the Paris Club. The second matter was on the increased use of imported food financed by INESPRES [National Institute of Price Stabilization] through PL-480 [U.S. public law which regulates agricultural surplus exports].

Spain is the other country which will be at the Paris talks on renegotiating its foreign debt. Spain has said, according to well-informed sources, that it has no objections to this, especially because it seems that a special treatment agreement will be drawn up on the payment of overdue debts which Spanish construction companies owe the IMF.

President Jorge Blanco has estimated that this year's inflation will at least double last year's, thus breaking the Dominican Republic's tradition of price stability, which began to break down by the end of last year under the application of the ITBI and the ad valorem tax on raw materials.

What is most worrisome, though, is that inflation would be accompanied by unemployment, which would worsen the existing social situation and could only be alleviated by an emergency plan. This is what gives Jorge Blanco's efforts such tremendous economic, even historic, importance.

REPORTAGE ON PROTESTS, STRIKE, VIOLENCE

LISTIN DIARIO Comments

FL241717 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Most of Santo Domingo's businesses did not open yesterday because of violence in the upper parts of the city. Supermarkets, pharmacies, and other businesses closed for fear of being stoned by groups angry at the government's recently adopted economic measures. Businesses along Condo Street, between Duarte and Meya Streets, the main business area, closed at midday yesterday.

Today LISTIN DIARIO, in its only editorial, reported that the five deaths from yesterday's many disturbances should make people reflect on this situation. The newspaper said that some of the dead were victims of repression and others of provocation, and that this situation cannot continue. But, the editorial added, it should be mentioned that the violence, attacks on businesses, and the destruction of [word indistinct] were brought about by the authorities' exaggerated measures.

LISTIN DIARIO said that the government had not put Santo Domingo under military control. It added that people should remain calm and channel any demands through established communications systems. The editorial pointed out that the government had not voluntarily increased prices and that the current situation was everyone's problem. It added that it would be easier for the government, seeking popularity, to create price controls -- thereby soon producing a general scarcity of goods and an inability to pay for exports -- or the government could increase wages and salaries across the board, which would devalue Dominican currency even more, thereby increasing the cost of living.

The editorial added that there have been numerous outbreaks of violence in Santo Domingo's neighborhoods, but that the inhabitants of these areas have not supported the outbreaks. It said that this violence has resulted in brutal counterreaction from the police, and more uncertainty and confusion at this time.

The newspaper HOY today said: Yesterday's actions can be described as acts of vandalism committed by forces opposed to the government.

24-Hour Strike Called

PA241530 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (AFP) -- A 24-hour strike called by the country's five union federations to protest the price increase of staples and the government's negotiations with the IMF has today virtually paralyzed Santo Domingo.

The strike was called last night after a day of street riots in Santo Domingo neighborhoods and several other cities that resulted in at least 5 dead, 100 wounded, and several hundred arrests.

Santo Domingo's morning newspapers reported that the protesters, most of whom were youths, burned hundreds of rubber tires, set vehicles aflame, stoned businesses and police stations, and raided and looted several stores, particularly grocery stores.

Union leaders justified the popular protests against the government's economic policies but condemned the "acts of vandalism." They warned that if the government does not listen to its demands, the 24-hour strike could be prolonged indefinitely.

Nearly all activity came to a halt early this morning in a city which was still shaken by yesterday's developments, the radio stations said.

Over 10 Reported Dead

PA241813 Paris AFP in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (AFP) -- Radio reports have indicated that as of noon today, over 10 people had been killed in confrontations between demonstrators and the authorities following an intensification of protests over the high cost of living and an agreement reached with the IMF.

Santo Domingo police have reported that in addition to the five people who were killed yesterday when the incidents broke out on the outskirts of the capital and in some interior cities, four others have died in hospitals. A correspondent of Radio Comercial reported that three other people died in Santiago, the second most important city in the country.

News reports indicate that since this morning there has been an intensification of the confrontations, as well as some looting of supermarkets, drug stores, and National Price Control depots where staples are stored.

Jorge To Issue Statement

PA241909 Paris AFP in Spanish 1816 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (AFP) -- Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco today said that the Dominican Government "is evaluating the situation" in the wake of demonstrations yesterday in Santo Domingo and other cities. The president made this terse declaration when approached by newsmen after a ceremony in which the new Yugoslavian and Japanese ambassadors presented their credentials.

Jorge Blanco said that in the next few hours he will make a statement regarding the outbreak of violent demonstrations against his economic policies. The protests have resulted in 10 deaths so far.

The president held a lengthy meeting this morning with the political commission of his Dominican Revolutionary Party, at the end of which no details were given.

According to official sources, he also met this morning with the military high command, headed by General Ramiro Matos Gonzalez, secretary of State of Armed Forces.

CP Leaders Released

PA242016 Paris AFP in Spanish 1819 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (AFP) -- It has been reported here that today at noon the police released Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the (pro-Soviet) Dominican Communist Party (PCD), and other leaders of the same political group.

Some PCD leaders were arrested yesterday and others this morning while investigations were conducted to establish whether they had any connection with violent protest demonstrations that have been taking place since yesterday in Santo Domingo and other cities of the country.

The police also released university Professor Hamlet Herman, a former guerrilla. Herman was arrested yesterday afternoon.

All the leaders were released without charges being filed against them. It was reported at noon today that police units this morning broke into the headquarters of the Front of the Dominican Left [Frente de Izquierda Dominicana, FID] whose principal support is the PCD, and interrupted a news conference being held there by the leaders of the group, who were speaking about the situation in the country.

Radio Reports 33 Killed

FL250042 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Some 22 persons have been shot to death during the rioting that has taken place today in the capital and other parts of the country, increasing the number of dead to 33 as a result of the demonstrations which began yesterday protesting the high cost of living.

President Salvador Jorge Blanco this afternoon toured several military installations, where he held talks with officers, generals, and troops.

Radio Popular Closed

PA241819 Paris AFP in Spanish 1804 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The radio station Radio Popular of this capital was closed this morning by order of the General Telecommunications Directorate on charges of disseminating news that could disrupt public order. The closure took place in the framework of the violent public protests that are under way in the Dominican capital and in cities in the interior. Since yesterday, the radio station's mobile units have been reporting on the disturbances in detail from the scene of events.

Radio Guarocuya Closed

PA250123 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (EFE) -- Telecommunications authorities in the Dominican Republic today ordered the closure of the "Radio Guarocuya" and "Radio Popular" radio stations, without giving any official reason for the measure.

In closing "Radio Guarocuya," in the city of Barahona 200 km southwest of the capital, the police arrested its director, Alcides Pimentel, without any explanation.

Also today Telecommunications Director Miguel Peguero Calzada ordered the closure of "Radio Popular" in Santo Domingo. This radio station had four mobile units covering yesterday's disturbances. When asked the reasons for the station's closure, Peguero Calzada said that he had nothing to say, and that an official message would be sent to the radio station's owner, Rafael Corporan de los Santos.

With the closing of these two radio stations, three have been silenced in the past 40 days. The first one was "Radio Central," which was closed on 17 March for broadcasting a false report that stones were thrown at President Salvador Jorge Blanco's escorts while he was talking with a group of students at the autonomous university.

Death Toll at 34

PA250114 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (EFE) -- The protest disturbances that began on Monday and continued today against the economic policy of the Salvador Jorge Blanco administration have resulted in 34 deaths, according to the latest information gathered in Santo Domingo.

The protests are against the increase in the last few months in the cost of living and the recent agreement signed with the IMF, which imposes a series of drastic austerity measures.

The disorders began in the capital but today a wave of looting reached several of the country's cities.

PRSC-PR MERGER APPROVED; BACKED BY FRG PARTY

FL240245 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 16 Apr 84 pp 1, 11

[By Manuel Volquez]

[Excerpts] Deputies from various parts of the Dominican Republic yesterday approved the merger of the Christian Social Revolutionary Party [PRSC] and the Reformist Party [PR] at a special convention. Seven members of the PRSC's National Executive Committee opposed the merger. Ninety six deputies of an expected 124 participated at the convention. Eighty-nine deputies voted in favor of the merger, seven opposed the measure, and there was one abstention.

PRSC president Dr Claudio Isodoro Acosta opened the convention at 1130. National Executive Committee members were present at the opening session, including Secretary General Alfonso Lockward, Dr Abigail Cruz Infante, Pedro Peralta Jr, Dr Rafael Tobias Genaro, Frank Pineiro, labor leader Fernando Guante, Domingo Fermin, and Diogenes Mejia.

Alfonso Lockward described the importance that the merger with the PR has for the PRSC. Lockward said that the merger had been discussed with Dr Balaguer as well as with Germany's Christian Social Union [CSU] party leaders. Steve Clark represented the Konrad Adenauer Foundation at the convention.

Lockward added that upon reaching a final agreement between the two parties, the new party would be named the Christian Social Reformist Party [Partido Reformista Socialcristiano, PRSC].

Executive Committee leader Diogenes Mejia said PRSC leaders had been pressured to merge with the PR by Germany's CSU party. Mejia said that part of the arrangement was that the PR would obtain PRSC-managed funds from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany for the establishment of the Christian Social Training Institute [Instituto de Formacion Socialcristiana].

BAHAMAS TO HOST NEXT CARICOM SUMMIT 29 JUNE

FL231946 Bridgetown CANA in English 2053 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 21 (CANA) -- The next summit of Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders will open in the Bahamas on June 29, a senior Guyana Government official said today. "While it is yet too early to say exactly what the agenda will be like, it is almost certain that the leaders will have before them the report of the Council of Ministers on the question of intra-Caricom trade problems," the official said.

Import curbs imposed in Trinidad and Tobago, in particular, have led to a contraction in trade among the 13 member territories. Matters relating to the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) will also be discussed as an extension of the trade question, the official said.

The CMCF, a mechanism which permitted Caricom countries to trade amongst themselves on a deferred payments basis, was suspended last April after it had reached its 100 million U.S. dollar credit limit.

The Caricom ministers, who last met in Georgetown in January, are due to meet in special session next month in Port of Spain to continue to thrash out the trade issues. It is expected that arising out of their deliberations, a report will be made to the summit. "The summit will be the first after the Grenada invasion, and it is likely also that the leaders will examine the repercussions of the Grenada situation and perhaps seek to resolve their differences," the official said. The invasion divided Caricom and placed severe strains on the community.

Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, and the Bahamas opposed the military intervention, which was supported by forces from Barbados, Jamaica, and five countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

BERMUDANEW FINANCE MINISTER, ECONOMIC COUNCIL NAMED

FL242230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2149 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Hamilton, Bermuda, April 24 (CANA) -- Health Minister Dr Clarence James has been appointed Bermuda's finance minister in Premier John Swans' reshuffled cabinet, replacing David Gibbons, who is stepping down after nine years in the post.

The announcement was made at a news conference by Swan, who later said a by-election will be held on May 17 in Pembroke West to elect a successor to Gibbons, who is leaving Parliament to devote more time to his family.

Dentists Dr Clarence Terceira and Dr David Dyer have announced that they will run for the ruling United Bermuda Party (UBP), and a primary is to be held on April 24. The opposition Progressive Labour Party has yet to announce a candidate for what is a UBP stronghold.

Swan said he did not want to appoint a new cabinet minister until after he carried out a review of all ministries during the summer recess. He also said that Senator Charles Collis, acting health minister, wanted his appointment to be temporary.

James also announced that Gibbons has been named chairman of a new advisory body to be known as the Economic Council. Gibbons has also been named chairman of the Bermuda Monetary Authority. "The purpose of the Economic Council would be to advise myself and the premier on financial and economic matters," said James.

HAITI

DUVALIER STRESSES SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA GROUP

PA231350 Paris AFP in Spanish 1108 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 23 Apr (AFP) -- In a speech delivered yesterday in Parliament on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of his rise to power, Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier reiterated his country's support for the Contadora Group in resolving the Central American crisis. Duvalier said he is convinced that the "extremely grave" Central American situation is due essentially to the "grave socioeconomic difficulties of the region."

Duvalier stressed the "promising prospects" in the relations between Haiti and the United States, as well as "the close ties" between Haiti and Canada after "certain misunderstandings" were "resolved." He added that, at the regional level, his country plans to bolster its standing with other Caribbean and Latin American nations.

In this regard, he stressed that Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic "have continued their process of rapprochement and cooperation to consolidate the climate of peace and understanding between the two countries" and to offer to the world the image of "perfectly achieved cooperation."

The Haitian president later announced a vast literacy campaign throughout the country. In the economic area, he announced a policy designed to limit imports and encourage domestic production and exports, and an increase of the legal minimum wage, which will go from \$2.60 to \$3 beginning on 1 October 1984.

BRIEFS

NEW BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR -- [Word indistinct] to the President of the Republic of Haiti Jean-Claude Duvalier on April 10th, in ceremonies held at the Presidential Palace in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. As part of the ceremonies, Ambassador Wood [word indistinct] from an honor guard during which the national anthem of the Bahamas was played. After presenting his credentials, Ambassador Wood met with President Duvalier during which matters of interest to both the Bahamas and Haiti were discussed. [Text] [Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Apr 84 FL]

JAMAICA

FORMER PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ON PNP POSITION

FL232300 Bridgetown CANA in English 1929 GMT 23 Apr 84

["Part two" of interview given by former Prime Minister Michael Manley to J.C. Proute, managing editor of THE GLEANER; "part one" was published on Page S 1 of the Caribbean section of the 13 April Latin America DAILY REPORT]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 23 (CANA) -- Former Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley says forthcoming general elections in Grenada should be postponed to give the "people a chance to emerge from a terribly traumatic experience."

Manley, in an interview with the Jamaica GLEANER, said suspension of the elections, which are planned for November, will allow new political institutions to unfold and Grenadians to review developments over the past several years and develop a new constitution.

"And I think you could have in a year's time a much more meaningful political process, a constitution that people understand...I think that what is taking place now represents a kind of superficial desire to just sweep a lot of problems under the carpet and say we've had an election, so we can forget all about it now."

Grenada's interim government, installed last November after a U.S.-led invasion in October had toppled a leftwing military government, says it does not intend to stay in office beyond a year. The Army had taken power in a bloody coup, killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The following is the final installment of a two-part interview conducted by managing editor of THE GLEANER newspaper, J.S. Proute, with Manley, leader of the People's National Party (PNP).

Proute: Grenada. Do you think that Bishop was coming around to establishing the kind of plural political system that people had been...his colleagues in the Caribbean...had been pressing for? Do you think that that brought a reaction -- an angry response from the other side of the New Jewel Movement?

Manley: I don't know, you know, while we have ~~our~~ own theories and ideas we were -- to be frank -- so totally taken by surprise by the explosion when it came, that I don't know that I have the basis in knowledge for making more than just guesses at what really went on. I mean I know that they had invited constitutional experts from all over the world to start looking at the problem of a constitution.

The last time I spoke to Bishop he seemed to be perfectly clear on what he said to me -- that this was the first step in trying to get a constituent assembly that could look at some form of democratic constitutional model, and I thought that, you know, that there was a general consensus about this -- I still don't know that there wasn't.

Well, I really have not heard what those incarcerated have to say in explanation of what took place, and there is a sense in which both you and I are really guessing about this.

Proute: You've been very strong in your condemnation of the United States involvement in the military action -- in fact, of the military action itself -- but you have been very strong about the U.S. involvement there and you have even suggested that perhaps the matter could have been resolved through negotiation. What type of negotiation, given the situation at the time?

Manley: Well, let me put it this way. I take a very strong position against external military involvements in the internal affairs of countries unless the authentication of how they came to be invited, what it is they are doing there, is absolutely clear in my mind.

Proute: Would this apply equally to Russia into Afghanistan?

Manley: I was among the first, and have been the most consistent in my absolute condemnation of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. I think that was another of those cases where they tried to suggest there was a legal basis for what they did. I think there is no legal basis for what they did. I think what they did is wrong, dangerous, and has been a very bad thing for the world -- a bad thing for the Third World, and we said so right at the start. And, it was just the other day I was making a speech in the United States and used that as an example of what I think is, how dangerous it is, when countries cross this line of sovereignty in that way, what a bad (thing) it is.

Where the Grenada thing is concerned, my information is that the military who had taken over, upon finding themselves absolutely isolated wanted to negotiate a demarche, that they wanted to disengage from the situation and had in fact sent signals to that effect.

Proute: This is to the eastern Caribbean?

Manley: Yes...had sent signals to that effect. Had sent them through Trinidad: Yes. What's more, they have said so. Logically it makes sense because they were involved in the slaying of a tremendously popular figure. It is not for nothing that over 10,000 people in an island that size went to spring Bishop from his house arrest. It is clear that they couldn't even mobilise their own militia because of the divided loyalties that were there for Bishop.

They were completely isolated from the Caribbean governments, completely isolated from the significant Caribbean oppositions, remembering that ours, for instance, who had been the backers of the New Jewel Movement through the Socialist International had absolutely condemned them for what they had done, and said we would have no part of them or in their defence or protection. They knew what the American reaction would be -- they are not idiots -- and they had been absolutely turned down by Fidel Castro, to whom they had made an appeal for help and who had sent them packing and said that what they had better do was go and find out who was responsible for Bishop's death... That's the signal they received, so they find themselves isolated from everything externally and internally.

Now if you say that the signals that they sent of the desire to negotiate were even false, if you say that their own appeal to civilian government so that they could retreat from the situation was false, is it not in order at least to try? To try to go from the Caricom meeting in the eastern Caribbean. Send out the response to discover whether they are willing to disengage, willing to accept the idea of the commission of enquiry from the Caribbean to establish the responsibility for Bishop's death, willing to accept proper procedures to bring to justice those responsible. Don't you try, before you go and invite the United States to send its Marines?

Proute: Is this not indicative of the kind of fear that may have existed among Caribbean leaders about possible dangers to their own security?

Manley: Let me put it this way: I have said over and over, and I've written it, that I draw a real distinction between those very small islands near to Grenada and what I have no doubt was the utter trauma, fear, and concern that they felt. I have every sympathy, for them. It is not possible for me to accept that Jamaica, for example -- that the Jamaican Government shared those concerns. I really don't accept that. Nothing will persuade me that they shared those concerns or that our prime minister (Edward Seaga) was traumatised or worried about his cousins who were living in Grenada. I don't accept that. I don't accept that on the record of Jamaican politics. I don't accept that on the objective realities of the situation.

Proute: On what basis then do you think the government acted?

Manley: I think the government wanted to get the U.S. troops in there to wipe any possible remnant of the kind of progressive force that Bishop represented. I think that what you saw was a brilliant bit of opportunism which I accept, but I am not fooled by it.

Proute: Are you opposed to any U.S. action at all in the Caribbean?

Manley: No...

Proute: Because it is suggested that you are anti-America?

Manley: Oh, that's absolute nonsense. I'm not anti-American at all. What I am against is certain uses of U.S. power. For instance, I have the most profound admiration for the American civilisation, deep interest in their democracy. I am very conscious of the tremendous warmth and kindness of the average American citizen. All these I see as tremendous strengths. I think that they have made fantastic contributions to science and education.

I'm delighted that they come and visit us as tourists -- all that I see as tremendous strengths. But, you will have to forgive me. I am not prepared to be blinded by the power of United States in the world, to certain things that have been done in the name of the U.S. Government. Nothing is ever going to persuade me that it is right for the U.S. to have invaded the Dominican Republic as they did in 1965.

I absolutely repudiate and reject their action right now in trying to bring down the Sandinist government (in Nicaragua) and having the CIA spend millions of dollars to arm people to destroy a country in that way. I mean, I just am sorry. I will not agree with those things. I don't think that America should do them. And I don't think that it suits America in the long run, the fact that she does do them.

Proute: Do you see this as all part of the geo-political situation in the world today?

Manley: No, I see it as much more. I think that that is the excuse that is used. I think that what is much more the concern is that there is a certain type of U.S. multi-national corporation that is very strongly entrenched in Latin America, which has chosen to make common cause the Latin American oligarchies. The minute there is an internal response, to tyranny or poverty or underdevelopment in Latin America which worries a Latin American oligarchy -- the big powers and the land barons who have run so much of Latin America for years -- that the minute they get upset, the U.S. multi-national corporation interest makes common cause with the oligarchy and sends the signals to Washington, and they, Washington, for its own good reason, responds to those signals and the next thing you know is that Washington appears to take the side of a tyranny, or an oligarchy against the side of the people and that, I think, is a great pity...a great, great pity, and, what is more, I think it is quite unnecessary.

Proute: Let's come back to Grenada a bit, because you have said that the elections which have been proposed for this year, and which seem set to take place, should not take place because you feel that the Grenadian people ought to be given an opportunity to work out some sort of...through a constituency assembly, or whatever...to work out some sort of constitution such as they would wish. Would you elaborate on that?

Manley: Let me put it this way. I think that one of the weaknesses of the English Caribbean political process is there has been very little popular involvement in the choice of constitutions, and there certainly was very little popular involvement in the choice of the Jamaican Constitution, and even if the Jamaican people had eventually chosen the exact same constitution to the last comma, I think it would have been a thing if they spent a year talking about it, discussing it in villages, in towns and service clubs and all the rest of it, so that when you came to your constitution, it rested upon a foundation of popular understanding.

This is the way English Caribbean politics have evolved and I think it is a pity.

I felt in the case of Grenada, that one thing that could come out of the disaster would be to take this period of trauma and invest, just say, for instance, what was the (former Prime Minister Sir Eric) Gairy Constitution which became sort of suspended by the (Bishop) revolution -- what were its premises, what was it that it tried to do for our society, do we like it enough to want to go back to it...to have a look perhaps at some early work that might have been done by the Bishop regime to see what new ideas, if anything interesting emerged, to have a look at papers, discuss, debate in their villages then all of that would have given the country a chance to focus its mind on the ground rules of a political system and how they would apply to Grenada particularly.

This would have had I think, the further benefit of giving people a chance to emerge from a terribly traumatic experience, to begin to allow new political institutions to unfold, not in terms of some quick promises, but in terms of building some organization, trying to sort themselves out, you know, what are we offering to Grenada for the future.

And I think you could have had in a year's time a much more meaningful political process, a constitution that people understood, and then whoever wins at that point, I think you will have had -- what is it -- a more real outcome. That's what I feel. I think that what is taking place now represents a kind of superficial desire to just sweep alot of problems under the carpet and say we've had an election, so we can all forget about it now.

Proute: So this is something that the Caribbean will need to do -- I know you feel this way about Jamaica, you have proposed yourself certain changes and you and the JLP have been discussing them -- you prefer, both of you, a republican form of government. Do you think this is an exercise the Caribbean countries will have to go through if the constitutions are really to be understood and to bring the people into some sort of dynamic situation as far as government is concerned?

Manley: You know, I am always very nervous to speak for another country. I can only say that I believe the Caribbean would benefit if every part of Caricom could devote some effort to the discussion of our constitutions, just by the people, if only to reconfirm the last comma on the basis of a clearer understanding of what it is all about, and what it is intended to achieve. I think it would only be to our benefit.

URUGUAYGOVERNMENT GIVES PERMISSION FOR 1 MAY RALLY

PY241645 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The great workers' rally planned to be held on the esplanade around the Legislative Palace on 1 May has been approved by the authorities through the police, which granted permission and delimited an extensive area for the rally's site. By police resolution, various streets in the zone adjacent to the rally site will serve as parking spaces for the participants' vehicles. According to the police communique, the rally can last 4 hours, from 1400 to 1800. The keynote of the rally will be the workers movement's unity and demands. The characteristics of this rally will be the same as the first one held last year with police permission, although the promoters expect an attendance bigger than last year's 30,000.

VENEZUELAU.S. CONTADORA SUPPORT SATISFIES MORALES PAUL

PA240435 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0425 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Caracas, 23 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul today said that he is satisfied with the U.S. support for the Contadora peace efforts, but warned against premature expectations. After a meeting with President Jaime Lusinchi, Morales Paul told newsmen: "U.S. State Department officials have very clearly supported Contadora's efforts to reduce tension in Central America."

Morales Paul denied press reports that said, after his talks in Washington last week, that he said the necessary factors for a peace accord in the region did not exist. Morales Paul explained: "What I said was that no false hopes should be entertained regarding the possibility of a treaty during the next Contadora meeting to be held 29 and 30 April." The Venezuelan foreign minister visited Washington on behalf of the four-nation group to seek firmer U.S. political support for the group's peace initiative.

The dialogue is to continue tomorrow when Harry Shlaudeman, Ronald Reagan's envoy to the region, will talk with President Lusinchi and Morales Paul.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION -- An Energy and Mines Ministry bulletin reports that national petroleum production in February was 1,718,000 barrels a day, compared to the February 1983 production rate of 1,789,000 barrels a day. During January and February 1984, 1,451,000 barrels a day of petroleum and by-products were exported. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 2-2 PA]

NATIONAL GUARD CHANGES -- Brigadier General Ali Marquina Corredor has been sworn in as commander of the Internal Order Defense Directorate [Direccion de Defensa del Orden Interno]. He replaces Brigadier General Octavio Serrano Gualdron, who has been appointed commander of the 3d Regional Command based in Maracaibo, Zulia State. Division General Landy Ferreira Zambrano, chief of the National Guard Operations Command, presided over the ceremony. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Mar 84 p B-17 PA]

NEW COMPTROLLER GENERAL -- Ricardo Sillery Lopez de Ceballos is the new Venezuelan comptroller general. He is a specialist in private law and is politically independent. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 2-1 PA]